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GATHERING MAY.—(DRAWN BY GEORGE WILLIS.)

POLITICAL OFFENDERS.

THE world has been deeply interested during the past week in the fate of three political offenders of very varied degrees of culpability, ranging, indeed, from the confines of innocence to those of criminality. The first of these in rank, and also, it is to be feared, in misfortune, is Maximilian, late Emperor of Mexico; the second is the late President of the Southern Confederation, Mr. Jefferson Davis; the third is Burke, the Fenian.

The claims of Maximilian to govern the ungovernable country called Mexico were, when he first set foot on the American continent, about as great as those of any of us may be to govern the moon. If there is a really national party in Mexico, then it is quite intelligible that the Mexican nationalists should object to Maximilian and all his works. If Mexico had been a well-ordered country, and not a country whose normal condition is anarchy, and which is ignorant of every other political condition, Maximilian's enterprise—or, rather, Napoleon's enterprise, in which Maximilian was the principal actor—would have been blameable enough. But Mexico was a sort of no man's land. It is a political vacuum which the nature of Napoleon III. abhors; and, in the judgment of all the European States, he did no wrong in endeavouring to fill it up. All European countries that had commercial dealings with Mexico were desirous of seeing an honest, respectable, solvent Government established there; and, as the Archduke Maximilian did not mind assuming the place of managing director of state affairs and responsible editor of state laws in Mexico, all Europe was ready to recognise and have dealings with him. So that, although the Emperor Maximilian's position was not, in the first instance, perfectly legal, he got it sanctioned and legalised without much trouble. Not, however, in Mexico itself. There, the only law which could avail anything was the law of force. It was in virtue of this law that the new ruler established himself in Mexico, and it is in virtue of it that his Government has now been overturned. By the latest accounts received in England from Mexico, Maximilian was a prisoner in the hands of some native chief; though this news did not seem to have reached the Mexican Embassy at Vienna. Nevertheless, the Austrian Government has, it appears, taken fresh steps with a view to the Archduke's safety, which looks very much as though the report, which is officially contradicted, were privately believed in. If law in Mexico is regulated by custom, then, the gallant Maximilian will have been shot before now. But if any pretence is made of bringing him to trial it will be difficult, indeed, to convict him of any treasonable offence. During the last twenty years there have been so many Governments in Mexico—existing not one after another in rapid succession, but simultaneously and side by side—that every Mexican must have been unfaithful to at least half a dozen Presidents, Dictators, and other rulers. Maximilian's object was to replace anarchy by regular government; and this was so far practicable that for some considerable time he really seemed to have succeeded in his endeavours. But, in the eyes of a nation of anarchists, it is to be feared that this may be looked upon as an unpardonable offence.

The civilised Americans deal otherwise with their political prisoners. Mr. Jefferson Davis, from a Southern point of view, has, of course, been guilty of no offence whatever; but the question of State rights and of the right of each State to secede from the federation need not be discussed now. That question has been practically decided by the victory of the North, fighting upon the principle that the United States central Government possessed an imperial character, and that the United States form one State in the sense in which Great Britain and Ireland form one State. Therefore Mr. Jefferson, in the eyes of those who held him, was a rebel, and the chief of a most formidable rebellion. In liberating him—after a long confinement, it is true—the American Government has done a good action, and has set a good example to the whole world. And yet it is going too far to say, as some of our contemporaries do, that it is to the example of America, in the case of Mr. Jefferson Davis, that the Fenian prisoner Burke owes his life. Considering that the life of Mr. Smith O'Brien was spared under similar circumstances, we do not see why we should look for our precedent to the United States.

It is rather late in the day now to speak of the desirability, not to say absolute necessity, of showing mercy to Burke, whose sentence could not fail to be commuted in presence of the really national feeling evinced on the subject. We cannot say that we have the least sympathy for him, nor, unless we mean systematically to cultivate anarchy of the Mexican type, that we think manifestations of sympathy for him at all wise. Rebellion cannot as a principle be tolerated or excused; and it is not so much for Burke's sake as for the sake of the Irish nation—the misjudging portion of which is represented in him—that we are glad to hear that the chief man among the captured Fenians is not to be put to death. A rebel, who does not complicate his rebellion by mixing up ordinary crimes with it, ought not, perhaps, to be treated as a murderer; but his offence is at least as grave as that of a duellist, and to kill a man in a duel is murder as the law now stands. A rebel leader is often a very noble-minded man, and acts strictly from conviction; but we can also conceive a murderer possessing certain virtues, and committing assassination on principle. Indeed, numbers of such men have existed and have suffered for their—mistakes. We do not suppose that there is any great danger of rebellious tendencies being looked upon with too great leniency in England; otherwise we would say that

no law could be too severe which, without shocking the whole community (as the enforcement of the existing law against treason, of course, could not fail to do), would have the effect of restraining them. It would be premature, perhaps, to say that there is now an end for ever to the infliction of capital punishment in England for political offences. But there is an end, we trust, to all ideas of repressing Irish discontent by measures of severity. That, it seems to us, is what the commutation of Burke's punishment chiefly means; and that, at least, is one important signification of it.

GATHERING MAY.

WE are altogether utilitarian nowadays, and old fanciful customs stand little chance of preservation, to say nothing of revival. The seasons go round and there are few ceremonies to mark them, so that we come down to a dead level of dulness, which may account for a good deal of that lowering dissatisfaction so commonly seen amongst the poorer classes in our large towns. Of course, we have advanced too far now to associate certain anniversaries with fruits and flowers and rustic games, or with such simple sports as delighted our ancestors. Attempts have been made within a few years to reassert the old English May of the poets, and for a short time a song was sung at all the leading concerts by ladies in low dress and irreproachable gloves, who gushingly invoked "Cha-rrr-rring Mee-ay" as being "Fur-eesh, fa-al-air, bur-ri-ight, and ghee-aye," but it wouldn't do. Nobody who remembered the cold, drizzling spring, with coals at six-and-twenty shillings a ton, could stand it. And yet there must have been a time when winds breathed soft in this month, and the spring came dancing in with both hands full of garlands. There was such a time; and even in this past month there have been breaths of those same soft winds, glimpses of bright, fresh beauty. The truth seems to be that we care more for slight inconveniences than the men and women of those older times. They were themselves more genial, and were contented to bask even in brief sunshine, making the most of it while it lasted, and healthily keeping it in remembrance. To us a primrose on the river's brink is a primrose and nothing more; nay, to some hypochondriacal grumbler it is even less—a mere weed, a common field-flower, not worth the plucking, but to be stamped upon with patent waterproof cork soles. How, then, should we wait patiently to the end of the month watching for the may-buds and rejoicing in the white, scented blossoms, to which almost all the old poets dedicate so many verses, that the fresh fragrance of the delicate hawthorn seems to linger on the page as we read the quaint triplets and couplets? It would be well if we sometimes obeyed our instincts; for then we should rush out into the fields when the tender spring foliage and the budding hedgerows called us, and revel in a sense of freedom and beauty which would lead to thanksgiving. Even the Romans had their Floralia in this month; and the heathen Celtic peasantry lighted fires on their hilltops to mark some sort of festal time of the year when the woods grew green. We must go back several generations to learn what was a real old English maying. "Forth goeth all the Court, both most and least, to fetch the flowers fresh," says Chaucer, in his "Court of Love;" and Spenser sings of "a shole of shepherds" going to fetch the boughs, and decking their king and queen with bloom. In the reign of the bluff Monarch Henry VIII. the whole Corporation went out a-maying to the high grounds of Kent, the King and his Queen, Katharine of Aragon, coming from their palace at Greenwich and meeting the civic dignitaries on Shooter's-hill. Fancy the Lord Mayor, Mr. Alderman Hale, the Sheriff, Mr. De Jersey, Mr. Thwaites, and a great company of incorruptible C.C.s headed by Mr. Lowman Taylor, going by the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway on such an excursion nowadays! Imagine Mr. John Stuart Mill, Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Bernal Osborne joining the party and crowning some female "person," who ought to have a vote but hasn't, with a little brief authority while the festival lasted! Well, "the Corporation," and even her Majesty's Ministers, might do many worse things than go a-maying—mght, for instance, forget to compensate poor tenants, neglect to find house-room for those evicted under the pressure of public improvements, and stand quite calmly by while speculating builders or reverend capitalists steal the people's land, inclose commons, bind forest wilds, or blight every green thing, so that the poor may go no more a-maying, nor know what a hawthorn blossom is for ever more in this world.

At any rate, if we cannot revive the old festival, which went out in London after that evil May Day when the City apprentices rose in revolt and the great maypole in Cheapside was abandoned, we may at least keep in remembrance the hopeful beauty and glorious promise of the season. A deal of youth will come back to us if we will only learn to love nature afresh, in childlike simplicity of enjoyment; and, if we have grown old and dull, let children teach us again. They, at least, love the fragrant white branches, and are not afraid of a prick from a thorn in gathering the snowy treasures. We are too old and too wise nowadays. The string is kept so tight that the bow almost refuses to unbend, and so, for very shame, we call our stiffness lumbago, and lay it to the east wind; go a-maying in kid gloves and goloshes, if we go at all; and, missing the simple, child-like spirit in ourselves, say that things have changed, and that the seasons in their courses war against us and make life hard and stern.

WHO IS HE?—We understand that the Duke of Cambridge has decided on calling upon a general officer of her Majesty's Army to resign his commission in consequence of his name having been associated with a recent notorious turf scandal. Although this is not the first occasion on which this officer has appeared in an unfavourable manner before the public, we believe that the Duke of Cambridge has only decided on taking this step on the General in question having declined, on the ground that pecuniary embarrassments render his presence in London impossible, to appear before a private court of inquiry of his brother officers at the Horse Guards. We believe that the Secretary of State for War has fully concurred with his Royal Highness in the course proposed.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—An Order in Council, dated Monday last, directs that, from and after the 18th day of June, 1867, notwithstanding anything in the orders previously issued, or in any other order of the said Council, to the contrary:—1. Cattle brought by sea from any place out of the United Kingdom, except the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and landed at any place in England, shall not be moved from the landing-place where landed for the period of twelve hours from the time of landing, but shall remain for such period in some lair or other proper place adjacent to such landing-place to be provided for their reception, for the purpose of being inspected by a competent inspector, and no cattle shall be landed from any vessel until such lair or other proper place shall have been provided. 2. If upon inspection any cattle so landed shall be found to be in such a state that in the judgment of the inspector it would be unsafe that such cattle should be moved from the port or place where the same shall have been landed, such cattle shall, with all convenient speed, be slaughtered at the place where landed, or at the nearest slaughter-house. 3. When by any order or orders of the Privy Council cattle brought by sea from any place out of the United Kingdom, except the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, are permitted to be moved to the Metropolitan Cattle Market, no such cattle shall be moved to such market except by railway; and all cattle brought by railway to such market shall be discharged from the trucks in which they have been conveyed within 1000 yards of the said Metropolitan Cattle Market at Islington, and shall be driven immediately upon being so discharged to such market or to the lairs belonging thereto, or such other lairs as may be licensed by the Privy Council for the reception of such cattle. 4. Nothing herein contained shall affect the orders dated respectively Feb. 1, 1867, and the 17th day of this present month of May, relating to the movement of cattle within the metropolis, and to cattle brought to the said Metropolitan Cattle Market respectively. 5. The words herein contained shall be construed as in the order of March 24, 1866, and all the provisions therein contained, relative to the offences for the contravention thereof, and the penalty for the same, and in respect of the powers of officers employed under it, and all other provisions of that order, and the subsequent orders altering it, now in force, and not inconsistent with anything herein contained, shall, in respect of every matter and thing to which they shall be applicable, apply to the regulations contained in this order, and the enforcing the same, and the officers employed under it."

Foreign Intelligence.**FRANCE.**

There was a splendid fête at the Austrian Embassy on Tuesday night, at which the Emperor and Empress of the French and the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia were present.

It seems that the Viceroy of Egypt is to be in Paris at the same time as the Sultan. The gayest of gay doings are promised. The Czar will call at Berlin on his way to Paris, and have one day of festivity there. The preparations for his arrival in Paris are on a great scale.

On Saturday last the Emperor received a deputation of English gentlemen who sought his Majesty's co-operation on behalf of that portion of working men of this country who are likely to visit the Paris Exhibition. His Majesty responded to the appeal which was made to him in the most friendly manner, and took occasion to remark that "a cordial understanding between France and England had always been the aim of his politics." The two points which the deputation urged upon the Emperor were, first, a reduction in the railway fares; and, next, the non-enforcement of the photographic regulations.

An order of the French Minister of War for reducing the artillery corps to the peace footing is looked upon, even by military men, as a proof that the present peaceful aspect of affairs is not likely to be disturbed.

SPAIN.

Several Madrid newspapers discuss the position in which Spain is placed by the recent decree of the Emperor of the Brazils in reference to slavery, and announce that Senator Pastor will bring in a bill proposing the abolition of slavery in the Spanish colonies.

ITALY.

The convention relative to the Church property was concluded, at Turin, on Sunday, with the Comptoir d'Escompte of Paris, Messrs. Fould, Oppenheim, and Erlanger. These capitalists will issue bonds, redeemable in twenty-five years and payable by the proceeds of the extraordinary tax upon the Church property, for 430,000,000f., which they will advance to the Government.

Letters from Rome speak of an increase of brigandage in the direction of Viterbo and of Civita Vecchia, accompanied by brutal cases of murder. There are some bands which are completely armed, and which traverse the country sacking, burning, and murdering. Among others who have suffered is the Russian Consul at Civita Vecchia, Signor Araba, a thousand sheep of his having been killed by these wholesale devastators. Considerable forces have been sent in pursuit, and a hope is entertained of their being surrounded at Corneto; but the experience of several years has shown that regular troops are no match for fellows who are intimately acquainted with every inch of the ground they desolate, and who are masters of the natives through their fears or sympathies. What hopes can there be, therefore, that mercenary troops, strangers to the land, can succeed?

PRUSSIA.

It is asserted that Prussia has entered into negotiations with the Danish Government, with the view of carrying out the article of the Treaty of Prague, which stipulated that the population of North Schleswig should be consulted by universal suffrage.

It is semi-officially stated that negotiations are on foot between Prussia and the South German States for settling the relations of the latter to the Zollverein. The Northern members of the Zollverein are also asked to take part in the negotiations.

A vote of censure on the Prussian Government was passed by 171 votes to 75 in the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday. The cause was the appointment by Count Lippe, of Herr Oberg, a Hanoverian Judge to a judicial vacancy in Prussia. Count Lippe introduced some time ago into the Prussian Chamber a bill to legalise the appointment of Hanoverian judges to Prussian judicial posts. The bill was opposed on the ground that for some time to come Hanoverian lawyers would not be sufficiently acquainted with Prussian law to be fit for Prussian judges. These arguments prevailed, and the bill was rejected; but, notwithstanding this, Count Lippe appointed Herr Oberg to a judgeship. A motion condemning this appointment as unconstitutional was moved by Herr Assmann, while Deputy Hauschtek moved an amendment in favour of the Government. The amendment was supported by Count Lippe, but was negatived by 172 votes to 96, and then Herr Assmann's motion was carried by the majority we have named above.

AUSTRIA.

The financial accounts of Austria show a lamentable deficiency. The accounts for the first quarter of this year state the expenditure at 102,408,263f., and the revenue at only 86,107,401f., leaving a deficit of 16,300,862f.

The instruction to the deputation sent to Pesth to be present at the coronation of the King of Hungary demands the maintenance of the integrity of Croatia, the incorporation of Dalmatia, the abolition of the system which at present prevails in the military frontier provinces, the responsibility of the Government to the Croatian Diet, and a special inaugural diploma for Croatia. It also declares that the arrangement arrived at between Austria and Hungary with regard to common affairs is not binding upon Croatia. The Croatian Diet has been dissolved. It is said that the new Diet will not be convoked till after the coronation, and it is stated that it will be called upon to assemble not at Agram, but at Esegg.

ROUMANIA.

Despatches from Jassy report a violent persecution of the Jews in that town. A large number of them had been sent away, and their destination was unknown. In consequence, however, of the representations of France and Austria these arbitrary measures have been abandoned.

TUNIS.

Letters from Tunis, dated the 12th ult., announce that a fresh insurrectionary movement had broken out in the vicinity of Beja. The insurgents had assassinated the Kaid of Beja and several other persons. Six thousand troops, under General Zazouk, were to leave Tunis on the 13th to quell the revolt. Intelligence of a later date states that the movement is of an unimportant character.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have received from New York details of the release of Mr. Jefferson Davis. The Court at Richmond consented to release him on his giving bail for 100,000 dollars, half of which must be furnished by residents in Virginia. Of course it was soon forthcoming; and it is worthy of notice that Mr. Horace Greeley became one of the securities. When Mr. Davis was released he seems to have been warmly cheered in the streets.

Mr. Kelley, a member of Congress, while addressing a meeting at Mobile, was mobbed, and narrowly escaped death from pistol-shots. The meeting was broken up. Several persons were shot, and three are reported to have been killed. The police quelled the riot, and a force of national troops subsequently guarded the streets. The accounts of the origin of the riot are conflicting, some of them asserting that it was preconcerted by rebels. Another account states that Mr. Kelley used incendiary language and defied the crowd, and that the majority of the shots were fired by negroes, most of whom present were armed. In fact, the negroes are becoming very troublesome all over the States, riots caused by them being reported from a variety of quarters.

MEXICO.

The New York journals on Monday morning announced positively that Queretaro had been captured by the forces of Juarez on May 15, and Maximilian made prisoner. Great sympathy will naturally be felt for the ex-Emperor, who might have made hi escape long ago if he had not chivalrously determined to remain with his friends in the hope of making terms for them. Some anxiety will naturally be felt for his personal safety; but it will be remembered that even before the Austrian Government had successfully invoked American interposition on his behalf, Juarez had given instructions that he should be treated as a prisoner of war. The San Luis Potosi journal states, however, that Juarez had ordered the Emperor Maximilian and his officers to be shot.

THE LUXEMBURG TREATY.

THE following has been published as the correct text of the treaty for the neutralisation of Luxemburg, recently concluded at London :

In the name of the Most Holy and Indivisible Trinity.—His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, taking into consideration the change produced in the situation of the grand duchy owing to the dissolution of the ties which attached it to the former Germanic Confederation, has invited their Majesties the Emperor of the French, the Emperor of Austria, the Queen of England, the King of the Belgians, the King of Prussia, and the Emperor of All the Russias, to assemble their representatives in conference at London, in order to come to an understanding with the Plenipotentiaries of his Majesty the King Grand Duke as to the new arrangements to be concluded in the general interest of peace. And their said Majesties, after having accepted this invitation, have resolved by common accord to respond to the desire his Majesty the King of Italy has manifested to take part in a deliberation destined to offer a new pledge of security for the maintenance of the general repose. In consequence their Majesties, in concert with his Majesty the King of Italy, desiring to conclude a treaty for this purpose, have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say—

(The names and titles of all the Plenipotentiaries signed below follow). Who, after having exchanged their full powers, and found them in good and perfect form, have agreed upon the following articles :—

1. His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, maintains the ties which attach the said grand duchy to the House of Orange-Nassau by virtue of the treaties that have placed that State under the sovereignty of his Majesty the King Grand Duke, his descendants and successors. The rights which the agnates of the house of Nassau possess to the succession of the grand duchy, by virtue of the same treaties, are maintained. The high contracting parties accept this present declaration, and take note thereof.

2. The grand duchy within the limits determined by the deed annexed to the Treaty of April 19, 1839, under the guarantee of the Courts of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia, shall henceforth constitute a perpetually neutral State. It shall be bound to observe this same neutrality towards all other States. The high contracting parties engage to respect the principle of neutrality stipulated by this present article. This principle is and remains placed under the sanction of the collective guarantees of the signatory Powers to this present treaty, with the exception of Belgium, which is itself a neutral State.

3. The grand duchy of Luxemburg being neutralised in the terms of the preceding article, the maintenance or establishment of strong places upon its territory becomes needless and without object. It is in consequence agreed by common accord that the town of Luxemburg, considered in past time, from a military point of view, as a federal fortress, shall cease to be a fortified town. His Majesty the Grand Duke reserves to himself the right of maintaining in that town the number of troops necessary to watch over it for the preservation of good order.

4. Conformably with the stipulations contained in articles 2 and 3, his Majesty the King of Prussia declares that his troops at present garrisoning the fortress of Luxemburg shall receive orders to proceed to the evacuation of that place immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this present treaty. A commencement will simultaneously be made by removing the artillery, munitions, and all objects forming part of the appurtenances of the said strong place. During this operation there shall only remain the number of troops necessary to watch over the safety of the war material, and to effect its removal, which shall be completed with the least possible delay.

5. His Majesty the King Grand Duke, by virtue of the rights of sovereignty he exercises over the town and fortress of Luxemburg, engages upon his part to take the necessary measures for converting the said strong place into an open town by means of such demolition as his Majesty shall judge sufficient to fulfil the intentions of the high contracting Powers expressed in art. 3 of this present treaty. The works required for this purpose will commence immediately after the withdrawal of the garrison. They shall be carried out with all the circumspection the interests of the inhabitants of the town demand. His Majesty the King Grand Duke further promises that the fortifications of the town of Luxemburg shall not in future be re-established, and that no military establishment shall either be maintained or created at that place.

6. The signatory Powers to this present treaty recognise that the dissolution of the Germanic Confederation having equally brought about the dissolution of the ties that united the duchy of Limburg collectively with the grand duchy of Luxemburg to the said confederation, it results therefrom that the relations mentioned in articles 3, 4, and 5 of the treaty of April 19, 1839, between the grand duchy and certain territories appertaining to the duchy of Limburg have ceased to exist, the said territories continuing to form an integral part of the kingdom of the Netherlands.

7. This present treaty shall be ratified, and its ratifications shall be exchanged at London within the period of four weeks, or earlier if possible.

In faith of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the treaty, and appended to it the seal of their arms.

Done at London, this May 11, 1867.

(Signed)—STANLEY, APPONYI, LA TOUR, D'AUVERGNE,
D'AZEGLIO, BENTINCK, VAN DE WEYER, TORNACO,
SERVAIS, BERNSTORFF, BRUNNOW.

DECLARATION.

It is well understood that art. 3 does not affect the rights of other neutral Powers to reserve, and in case of need to repair, their strong places and other means of defence.

The same signatures follow.

THE BRAND TESTIMONIAL.—The presentation of this testimonial, originally announced for June 19, has been unavoidably postponed until the commencement of next Session, Mr. Brand being about to leave England for a time under medical advice. The subscription-list, amounting to upwards of £1500, is now closed; it comprises 364 names, of whom 308 belong to the present and fifty-six to former Parliaments. The testimonial is being prepared by Messrs. Garrard, of the Haymarket, and will be ready for the inspection of subscribers by the middle of July.

IMPORTANT MINING OPERATIONS IN DERBYSHIRE.—At Coton l'ark, a few miles from Gresley, a wealthy proprietary are now sinking for coal at a point away from any coal-field, and where the geological maps show that there is none in the neighbourhood. Should the sinking turn out successful, of which there is a very strong belief that it will do, the result cannot fail to affect the investigations of the Royal Commission now engaged in inquiring into the extent, &c., of our coal-fields. It will also, doubtless, tend to other similar experiments being made under formations which have hitherto been supposed to have no coal beneath them, and in localities where the geological maps show that the mineral does not exist. The work is being carried out under the superintendence of Mr Brown, of the firm of Brown and Jeffcock, mining engineers, of Sheffield and Barnsley, and is exciting a great deal of interest among all persons connected with coal-mining.

THE LEEDS LIFE-BOAT.—The new life-boat contributed by the town of Leeds was exhibited there on Tuesday last, and was publicly presented to the National Life-boat Institution by the Mayor on Wednesday. The life-boat is called the William Beckett of Leeds, and is to be stationed at Youghal, on the coast of Cork. Its cost has been presented in honour of the gentleman whose name it bears by the town of Leeds. The institution is very much indebted in this respect to the co-operation of J. P. Hodgson, Esq., Henry Ludolf, Esq., and other gentlemen in Leeds. Thus Leeds, like many other inland towns, will be directly, by its life-boat, assisting in the great and national work of saving the lives of shipwrecked sailors. The National Life-boat Institution has now twenty-eight life-boats on the Irish coast, on which it has expended £14,000, and some of the noblest services have been performed by these boats to the crews of vessels to and from America and other places which are so frequently wrecked on the shores of Ireland.

THE BELGIAN RIFLEMEN AND THE ENGLISH VOLUNTEERS.—The arrangements for the reception of the Belgian riflemen are assuming a form which promises complete success. The reception committee have been working assiduously, and it is gratifying to find that no member of the executive body has displayed more interest in all that can conduce to making the entertainment to the Belgians one worthy of our volunteers and of the English people than the honorary president, the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness has determined on being in London at the time of the visit of the Belgian riflemen, and we are happy to add that the King of the Belgians will be here too. As he led his people in their magnificent reception of the volunteers, the volunteers will rejoice in his Majesty's presence among us when we are entertaining those of his subjects who have accepted the return invitation. The English volunteers have already made arrangements for two grand entertainments at the Agricultural Hall, the management of which has been intrusted to Mr. Deffries. On one evening there will be a ball and supper, and on another a concert and supper, to which the volunteers will be invited as guests. There is every probability that the Belgian riflemen will be conveyed from Ostend to London Bridge in Admiralty steamers, and that immediately on landing they will be marched to Guildhall, and there entertained by the civic authorities. Miss Burdett Coutts has intimated her desire to give them a fete, and more than one nobleman has solicited the sanction of the reception committee to receive the visitors at a banquet. It is, however, the wish of the committee that, apart from private hospitalities, there should be a national reception, befitting the character of the country, and therefore they are anxious that the subscriptions of volunteer corps and of the public should be sent in at once. The city of Brussels presented to each of our volunteers a handsome silver medal and bar commemorative of the visit. The executive committee of the English volunteers have given orders for the manufacture of a beautiful badge, which will be presented to each of the Belgian riflemen visiting London. If the public second the efforts of those to whom the management of the reception has been intrusted, this visit of the Belgian riflemen will be creditable to our national force and to the country generally.

NATIONAL REFORM UNION.

AT one time it may have been supposed that the second meeting held under the auspices of the National Reform Union, on Saturday evening last, at St. James's Hall, would show a falling off in numbers as compared with that which took place ten or twelve days ago. In the event, however, such was not exactly the case; for although there was not so much pressure as to put the physical endurance of a large part of the audience to a severe trial, yet every available place, whether for sitting or standing, was occupied; while an ardour, not to say enthusiasm, prevailed, which rivalled the demonstrativeness of the former meeting. Doubtless owing to the fact that Mr. Stuart Mill was announced as the leading orator of the evening, the fair sex was more fully represented than on the previous occasion; many of them, we will not say invading the platform, but occupying places there. There were reasons obvious enough for the circumstance that the list of members of Parliament which had been published as intending to take part in the proceedings was not realised, the Legislature being represented only by Mr. Mill and Mr. Gilpin. It is not always possible to compare or to measure the breadth and depth of popular demonstrations; but it really seemed as if Mr. Mill this time was made quite as much of as was Mr. Bright at the former gathering; and it might have been fancied that there was a peculiar tone of appreciation in all the applause with which he was greeted.

Unquestionable proof was given of the judgment with which Mr. Morley was chosen chairman in permanence of the London meetings of the union; for this, his second speech, did not bear even the slightest family likeness to that which he delivered at the previous meeting, but dealt with the special facts of the movement in relation to the general objects of the meeting with admirable point. The cheers which followed every sentence showed that each of them was a hit; and it may be noted that his allusions to Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright were caught up and received with shouts, the sound of which must have reached to Piccadilly, while a casual mention of Mr. Lowe evoked a storm of groans and hisses; and, indeed, this happened several times in the course of the evening when the member for Calne was used to point a moral or to furnish an illustration. As his name stood first on the programme, the audience probably expected Mr. Mill to open the discussion. But the managers of the union seem to understand the dramatic rule which postpones the appearance of that actor who in Spain is called the "gracioso" until such time as the audience have become absolutely impatient for him. So Mr. Gilpin was put up, and perhaps surprised any persons whose experience of him as a speaker is confined to the House of Commons. Earnest he might have been expected to be, fluent he was sure to be, but that he should have within him so much of the element of popular oratory as really to carry his hearers easily and even eagerly along with him, alternately to stimulate their sympathies and to provoke their unequivocally hearty laughter, was perhaps more than was counted on. It was a bold coup, that of introducing the question of mercy to the Fenian convicts into a discussion on Reform in Parliament; but it was skilfully done, inasmuch as it was made the culminating point of an argument on the change that would be effected in policy towards Ireland when a thoroughly reformed Parliament was inaugurated. Again, Mr. Gilpin so contrived to set up Mr. Disraeli as a target to be shot at that he remained all through the proceedings as a favourite mark.

When Mr. Charles Reade was announced as the seconder of the first resolution, there was a momentary expectation, perhaps a hope, that the well-known author of that name was about to contribute some flashes of genius, and probably of eccentricity, to the proceedings; but it turned out that the gentleman who bears the same name was, if not a prosaic, decidedly a very practical man, who took the turning word of the resolution as a text and made a very sensible speech, not without its noticeably salient points.

A pause, and then came a shout—a roar—a tumult, that noise which, coming from a stirred and excited multitude, sounds nearly as terrible when it is sympathising as when it is hostile or threatening. No need to mention Mr. Mill's name; everyone present seemed to know him personally. And most unquestionably, on this occasion, he made one more claim to the title of a man of the people; for he adapted himself with curious felicity, and spoke in a way that the people could heartily and keenly appreciate. Here was no flowing essay, abounding in nicely-rounded periods and rhetorical balances, but a colloquial address, clothed in short, sharp sentences, each of them turning on some familiar vernacular phrase, such, for instance, as "trying it on," which, as applied to his argument, was a stupendous success—and each of them a hit in itself; while a quiet but incisive humour, admirably enhanced by the unmoved countenance of the speaker—a faculty rarely, if ever, possessed by a mere joker of jokes—kept the audience in so continuous a roar of laughter that possibly they almost failed to observe the strong vein of irony, and the direct bearing of every droll observation on the special object of the speech, which pervaded it wholly. When, however, Mr. Mill came to speak on the subject of mercy to the Fenian convicts, he changed his style, became grave and almost pathetic, but nevertheless contrived, with much adroitness, even here to speak to the immediate purpose of the meeting; as, when declaring that the people of England "meant justice to Ireland," he said, interjectionally, "and they will soon be strong enough to do it!" One thing is certain, and that is that henceforth it will be difficult for Mr. Mill to avoid the calls which will be made on him to appear on the platforms of great popular meetings.

Up to this time the proceedings had gone on with the utmost regularity; but now an elderly gentleman, of benevolent aspect, rose on the platform, and demanded a hearing. However, with "unerring instinct," the assembly, anticipating an attempt to turn aside the current of argument, and judiciously determined to prevent an untoward demonstration, which would have been inevitable if anyone spoke in an opposition sense, answered the question of the chairman, whether the postulant should be heard, with a "No" so vigorous and decided as to be beyond appeal. The next resolution was intrusted to Mr. Mason Jones, who treated it in the manner which may have been expected from a speaker who dubbs himself an orator; and certainly there were marks of the cultivation of the oratorical art proper in his address, inasmuch as it was commenced in an argumentative tone and gradually worked up into a very whirlwind of passionate declamation. His denunciation of Mr. Disraeli, terrific as it was, did not seem to go a whit beyond the sympathies of the audience; and in other passages, indeed all through, the speaker lacked no encouragement from those whom he was addressing. An allusion by Mr. Jones to a modification of Mr. Mill's views on the ballot appeared to render necessary an explanation from that gentleman, to the effect that he still objected to the ballot in the abstract, and, besides, believed that the people would soon be strong enough to do without it; but he thought now that, if it was to be tried at all, it should be tested in Ireland.

Again Mr. Torr spoke as the representative of the Reform Union, and exerted himself strenuously; one cry which he uttered, of "Down with the Ministry!" setting the assemblage into something like a frenzy of approbation. The places in the announced phalanx of speakers vacant by the absence of several M.P.s, were necessarily filled by recruits engaged at the moment; and, under the circumstances, Mr. J. A. Partidge, of Birmingham, and Mr. Probyn did their work well, the latter managing to introduce Mr. Roebuck's name, which was the signal for a hurricane of hisses and every sort of mark of disapproval and distaste. The vote of thanks to the chairman was interrupted by a remarkable episode. A person in the body of the hall claimed and was accorded attention, when he proposed a memorial to the Queen for clemency to the Fenian convicts; and so decisively was the opinion of the audience expressed in favour of the proposition that the chairman did not hesitate to accept it. A resolution to that effect was put and seconded by an enthusiastic and ardent gentleman from the sister kingdom, who set about, at an unpropitious moment, for the crowd was all afoot and ready for departure—to give what was evidently meant to be a prolonged history of the wrongs of Ireland. This, however, was ruthlessly cut short, although the

struggles of the Irish patriot to "unpack his heart" were vigorous and sustained. To the simple act of acknowledging the vote of thanks to him the chairman contrived to give unwonted point and interest, even to the keeping the audience together during the whole time he was speaking those last words, which are generally so commonplace—an almost unparalleled feat of chairmanship. The 2500 persons who were present then orderly dispersed.—*Daily Telegraph*.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of this society was held on Monday at Burlington House—Sir R. Murchison, the president, in the chair. The report of the council was read and adopted; the president was re-elected, and some re-elections and elections in the council took place. The founder's medal was presented to Admiral Alexis Butakoff, of the Russian navy, for being the first to launch and navigate ships in the sea of Aral and other services in the cause of geographical science and discovery. The patron's medal was awarded to Dr. Isaac J. Hayes, of the United States, for his expedition to the Polar Sea. Mr. Adams, the American Minister, returned thanks on behalf of Dr. Hayes.

The president then delivered the annual address, which occupied nearly one hour and a half. He commenced with an obituary notice of the fellows of the society who have died during the past year, dwelling particularly on Colonel Everest and the great services he had rendered in the furtherance of geographical knowledge by his trigonometrical surveys in Northern India. The late Professor Rogers was also spoken of at some length; but the other fellows who had died, of whom there were forty-three, were for the most part only briefly mentioned. The greater portion of the address related to the probable fate of Dr. Livingstone and to the condition of Central Asia. Sir Roderick continues to entertain great hope that Dr. Livingstone is yet alive, and that he will return after having solved the problem whether there is an outlet on the north of Lake Tanganyika towards the Albert Nyanza, or whether that lake is the ultimate source of the Nile. The accounts that have appeared in the daily papers purporting to confirm the report of the death of Dr. Livingstone were, he said, only repetitions of the statements first received from the runaway porters, who there was good reason to believe were not worthy of credit. The expedition about to be undertaken by the Government in search of Dr. Livingstone would be ready to start on June 9, and within six or seven months at the furthest it was expected that positive news would be received whether Dr. Livingstone had been killed or had passed into the interior. Sir Roderick inclined to support the opinion that Lake Tanganyika flows into the more northerly lake, and that the estimation of the level of the former, which had been supposed to be lower than the Albert Nyanza, was not correct. Turning from Africa to Asia, Sir Roderick entered at great length into the consideration of the question whether the Sea of Aral had within historic time been joined to the Caspian or had been dried up. The latter opinion had been expressed by Sir H. Rawlinson, who conceived that the River Jaxartes as well as the River Oxus at one period, not many hundred years distant, flowed into the Caspian. Sir Roderick Murchison, considering the question from a geological point of view, arrived at a different conclusion. He conceived that at some geological period far anterior to historic record the whole of that part of Asia was depressed and covered with water, but that the land which now separates the Caspian Sea from the Sea of Aral had been elevated long before historic times. He then adverted to the papers which had been read during the present session relating to that portion of Asia, especially to the paper, by Captain Sherard Osborn, on Central Tartary, and also the researches of the Russians in that part of Asia. He took occasion to point out that the object of Russia was to establish a more free communication with China, which would now be practicable by the navigation of the River Jaxartes, and to express the opinion that our Indian possessions would be in no danger from the proximity of Russia, which would be rendering a benefit to mankind by occupying a region now possessed by the most savage tribes. The progress of geographical discovery in Northern India, in South America, and in Australia was then briefly noticed, and it was stated that an Anglo-Egyptian expedition had been suggested by Sir S. Baker for the exploration of the interior of Africa, of which Sir S. Baker was willing to be the conductor. Sir Roderick Murchison, in concluding his address, said that he felt that the society ought to choose a younger man for their president; if, however, he was honoured by being re-elected for the next year, he would do his utmost to forward the objects of the society, but he must then positively resign.

FASHIONS FOR THE PRESENT SEASON.

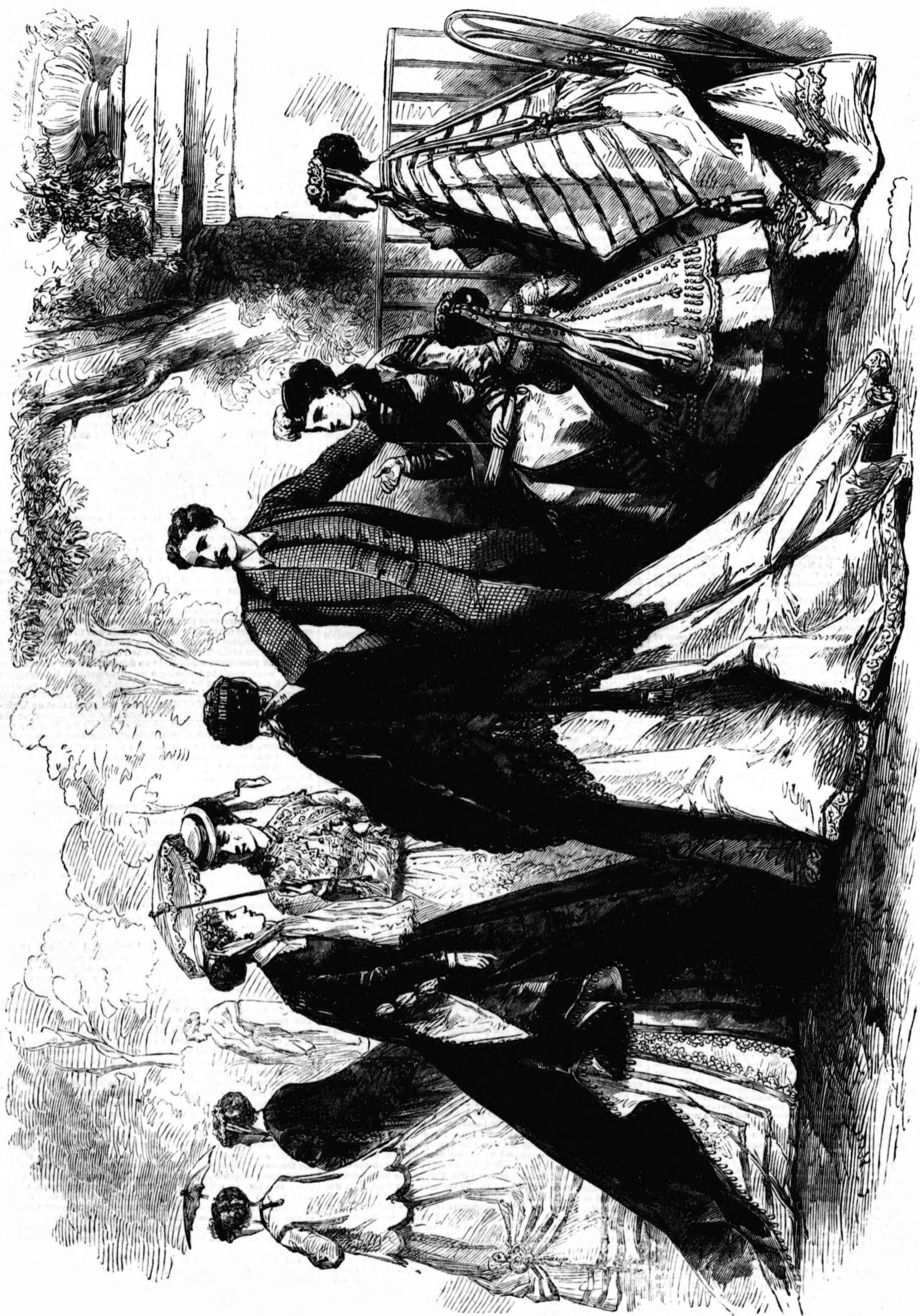
THE season is altogether so exceptional, and the changes of temperature have been so sudden and uncertain, that the ordinary summer fashions have not even yet come fairly into notice, although we have now reached the first day of June. Such modifications in spring attire as were not too decided to be safe against the east winds and heavy showers have, however, been adopted, and it will not be until the end of the present month that the lighter and cooler fabrics will be generally worn. In fact, for the past month the fashions have been in a wavering state, and we therefore publish a new illustration of the modes which have been most generally recognised as maintaining the medium calculated to answer the requirements of a transition period.

Nothing can exceed the great beauty and delicacy of the foulards prepared for the ensuing season. This material, to which we have alluded in our last article, is more adapted for general use than any other, being as easily washed as a muslin, the colours, always immovable, retaining all the freshness and brilliancy of taffeta, whilst at the same time it forms a less expensive and equally elegant toilet, which will be generally adopted this summer. The most striking patterns in this material have Pompadour bouquets on ground-work of a bright colour, light green, azure blue, maize, canary, &c.; others have a garland of flowers graduating from the skirt to the waist, on a white ground-work; while more simple taffetas will be attracted by the modest sprigs and chené stripes which are so charming from their graceful simplicity. White foulards will replace cashmere for the short Breton paletots, and are generally striped or checked when required for this purpose.

The Princess robe, with some slight modifications (such as the sleeve of the moyenage), will remain the type of the most distinguished mode; while the costume, with its short skirt cut in tabs or points over a jupon of bright colour, will continue to be worn by young ladies. A costume of foulard was composed of a jupon of sky blue and robe of white foulard, with very narrow blue stripes; the festoons of the upper skirt were bound with sky blue, and had an ornament of pearl in each scallop. We may here remark that pearl is likely to eclipse every other style of ornament now in use; it will replace the crystal trimmings for bonnets and the jet ornaments for basques and ceintures. A very elegant trimming of passementerie has been introduced for the skirts of Princess robes; it is of a very open pattern, with very fine black and white pearl ornaments, and should be placed on the sloped seams at the back of the skirt.

The Exhibition ribbon is just now introduced, and is sure to be greatly admired; the colouring of the butterflies alighting on a clump of field flowers is so exquisite as almost to rival nature. Ribbons of a chené and coloured ground, with bouquets of flowers, will in a great measure replace the ceintures now so generally worn, and are seen in endless variety in the great *magasins* of Paris.

TREASURE TROVE.—Last week a considerable quantity of old silver coin was found under the stump of an old hazel near a small wood, called Lover's Copse, on the estate of H. R. Seymour, Esq., of Crowwood, in the parish of Rainsbury, near Mariborough, Wilts. The silver pieces are mostly about the size of a florin, and bear severally the following dates:—1574, 1591, and 1595. The finder took 2lb. 8oz. in weight of these coins from the hole where he discovered them. So soon as his good fortune became known to his neighbours many of them went to the copse, and, with spades, forks, and axes, made a persistent search in the vicinity. Several mere pieces of money were found.



PARIS FASHIONS FOR THE SEASON.



THE PARIS EXHIBITION: NATIONAL FEMALE COSTUMES.—SEE PAGE 348.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 305.

LIFE OR DEATH.

ON Monday, early, we had a crowded House; and no wonder, for on that night great deeds were to be done. The question was to be settled whether landed proprietors shall be able to manufacture unlimited faggot votes; secondly, the qualification for county occupiers was to be settled; and, lastly, the compound householder was, if possible, to be finally killed and buried out of our sight. There were at five o'clock at least 500 members in the House, a most unusual number at such an early hour. But before any of these matters could come on there was something else to be attended to more urgent than all the rest. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was to tell us whether Burke and his companions would be executed or not. It was whispered about that her Majesty's Government had changed their opinion, and, though only a day or two ago it had been determined to let "the law take its course," they nevertheless meant to spare the lives of the prisoners; but nothing certain was known. And when Mr. Disraeli rose to answer the question put by The O'Donoghue the eagerness of the members was intense and breathless. You might just before the Chancellor of the Exchequer opened his lips, literally have heard a pin drop. But here we must notice another little matter which caused no small excitement in the House and the lobbies. Some Irish member—Mr. Bagwell, we think—came down to the House with a telegram from Ireland announcing that there had been another Fenian encounter with the military and that the military had been defeated. Sad news, this! and most unfortunate as to time; for what hope can there be now that the lives of the Fenian prisoners will be spared? If the Government have resolved to adopt a merciful policy, this intelligence must surely make them pause. These were the sad reflections which arose in the mind of every man inclined to mercy; whilst, as we could see, in the minds of those who were not mercifully inclined there was a feeling of triumph like that which a man feels when a prophecy of his, though a prophecy of disaster, has come true. "There! did we not tell you so?" these said, or seemed to say. One, indeed, openly said it. "Let there be no talk of mercy now. We shall never have Ireland quiet until half a dozen of these fellows are hanged." But, happily, the telegram proved false. Soon after it had been circulated about the House Lord Naas, the chief Secretary of State for Ireland, came down, and he at once denounced it as false. Moreover, when it came to be examined closely, there appeared in it evidences of falsehood. It was dated Monday, and told us that the outbreak occurred at Cork on Thursday week. Conclusive of falsehood, this, for the news of an event so disastrous as this must have been known by the Government in less than five days. Besides, the members for Cork had received no such intelligence. Who, then, could have got up this lie? Ah! who, indeed? Was it intended to influence the fate of Burke and his companions? Such an explanation was whispered about; but we hesitate to believe that there can be such wickedness in the world as this supposes. The excitement produced by this news lasted but a short time, but it was for that time very great, reminding us somewhat of the excitement when rumours of the Indian mutiny of 1857 began to float about the House.

LIFE.

Mr. Disraeli made his announcement that the lives of the prisoners were to be spared in his very best and in most appropriate style. He was solemn, and, as it appeared to us, unaffectedly solemn, clear, succinct, cautious. It was evident to all that he had pondered well this important, though short, speech. The speech, though, did not escape cavilling criticism. Mr. Disraeli did not hesitate to credit public sentiment with the clemency of the Crown; and on this an old Conservative, as he passed through the lobby, thus spoke:—"Our condemned scoundrels have only to urge their friends outside to kick up a row, and they are sure to be saved. If we cannot get men guilty of high treason on the gallows, we had better abolish it at once." The Liberals loudly cheered the announcement; but the Conservatives, except some half dozen, did not cheer. But think not, readers, that these gentlemen are more cruel than their opposite neighbours. Not bit of it. They are not cruel, but they are still hampered with the old reactionary doctrines of putting down all revolutionary movements with a high hand—stamping them out; or, in plain English, quenching them in blood. Rumour says that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the Cabinet, was for mercy, and stood almost alone; and this those who know him and his party best can well believe.

THE COMPOUNDER AGAIN.

This agreeable business over, we had an interlude—subject, our tire-cme, irrepressible, inextinguishable friend the compound householder, who seems to have as much vitality as a nine-lived cat or a fallacy. This distressing personage we thought we had killed, or, at least, condemned without hope of mercy, last week. Mr. Hodgkinson moved that he be killed, Mr. Disraeli accepted the motion, and, amidst a shout of applause from all true Liberals, he was, as we thought, delivered over to the executioner, to be seen no more. But lo! here he is again, visibly, before our eyes, once more to torment us. "How comes this? We have been deceived!" the House was disposed to say. Indeed, some of the members had said this, and somewhat angrily, in another place; so angrily that Mr. Disraeli, to whom this distressing personage had been delivered over for execution, was nettled, and rose, as soon as Mr. Dodson got into the chair, to explain the compound householder's appearance and to show why he had been spared. And with what wonderful skill, ingenuity, plausibility, and seeming innocence and honesty he performed his most difficult task! We have heard scores of Mr. Disraeli's speeches, and have often expressed our admiration of his cleverness; but anything so clever, so ingenious, so plausible as that speech, we never heard before. It was a perfect model of artistic rhetoric and clever, ingenious sophistry. "Gentlemen, you surprise me," he seemed to say; "her Majesty's Government thought that it was carrying out the wishes of the House in sparing this person," &c. The irony of the situation was complete. The Liberals thought that they had delivered the compound householder to the executioner with peremptory orders for his death; and now they were told, and really made to believe for a time, that he was spared at their request. The scene was, as we looked down upon it, laughable in the extreme. The surprise, the candour, the innocence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; the perplexed, bewilarded astonishment which sat on the faces of the Opposition; the delight of the Conservatives at seeing the tables thus ingeniously turned—delight ever and anon breaking out into cheers! But the Liberals did not remain thus spellbound long. When Disraeli sat down, Mr. Stuart Mill rose; then, Mr. Childers; then, Mr. Hodgkinson; and, lastly, Mr. Gladstone; and by the time Mr. Gladstone had finished the spell was broken, and once more the wretched compounder was in danger, and, as we then saw, would in all probability get his final mittimus before the night expired. On *dit*, the Cabinet was dissatisfied with the order for the execution of the compounder, to which Mr. Disraeli had assented, and expressed a desire to have him spared. "Can't be done," said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "I fear; but I will try it on." And this was the fulfilment of his promise.

KILLED AT LAST.

But it would not do. The Liberals would not have it; and, a report having come from the whips that success in a division was doubtful, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had once more to concede, in the old form, "I laid these clauses on the table that the subject might be discussed. I thought that they embodied the opinion of the House. But if that is not so, I will lay no stress upon them"—in short, will abandon them, and peremptorily order the compounder to be executed forthwith. A titter ran through the Liberal ranks when this announcement was made, and one member bolted into the lobby that he might laugh outright; whilst a Conservative gentleman, being asked as he came out what they were doing inside, replied "Doing! why we have just given up the tenth vital principle of the Reform Bill."

THE EXPERIMENT.

On Tuesday we made an experiment. It has been for a long time

usual, towards the end of the Session, to have morning sittings. These sittings began at twelve and ended at four. The House then suspended business for two hours, resuming at six. These two hours, it was alleged, were useless, as four is too early for dinner in short, were wasted. Mr. Disraeli, struck with this, proposed to utilise them. "Let us," he said, "on Tuesdays and Fridays, begin at two, suspend at seven, and resume at nine;" the five hours—from two to seven—to be occupied by the discussion of Government business, and all after nine to be devoted to the discussion of bills, &c., proposed by private members. Now, as Tuesdays and Fridays, by the old rule, belonged entirely to private members, Mr. Disraeli by this amendment secures ten hours a week to the Government more than it had before; and, further, these ten hours are before dinner. In short, as we said, the Government gets the House when it is calm—the private members, when it has dined. Artful man, that Chancellor of the Exchequer! On Tuesday, then, we began work at two, and kept on steadily and calmly till seven; and what a stroke of work we did that morning! Probably so much Parliamentary work was never conquered in five hours before. Thus far, then, the experiment succeeded; but at nine o'clock there was no House. A few minutes before nine there were only three members present; at nine, when Mr. Speaker resumed his seat, there were about twenty. And then arose the question in our minds, "Will anyone notice this fact? Surely nobody will be so injudicious." But in a minute after this thought occurred, Major Knox, of Dungannon, a Conservative, rose and told the Speaker that there were not forty members present. Injudicious man! Why did he do this? We cannot authoritatively say, but we may guess that he dislikes the new plan, and determined to foil it. The members of the Government looked alarmed. Mr. Speaker hesitated, but the count must go on. He was, though, as might be seen, determined to delay the operation of counting as long as he could. The three-minute sand-glass was turned, and, as the sand slowly ran down, every eye was fixed on the door. One member came in, then another. Mr. Hunt went out to see if he could find others, but there were no more, except two Irish members, and they flatly refused to enter. And now the sand is out, and Mr. Speaker rises, but how slowly he proceeds to count! He counts, as a musician would say, at slow time, one, two, and so on to thirty-eight, and then the line breaks off. But, see, he is counting again! He may have made a mistake, you know; at all events he will gain time. But it was all of no use, not a soul entered while he was counting: again he got to the fatal thirty-eight. He is a potent man, this Speaker; but, potent as he is, arithmetical facts are more so. But still, you see, he hesitates. He surely is not going to break the rule. No, he is gone at last, and the House is adjourned. Is, then, the experiment a failure? No! the Government whips are to blame for this; with one clang of their thongs they might have got together one hundred men.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE PARKS.

Lord REDESDALE laid upon the table a bill for the better management of the Royal parks, which adopted the clauses of the Act obtained by Sir Francis Crossley, a few years since, for the park he presented to the town of Halifax.

The Earl of DERBY observed that the question to which the bill referred was under the consideration of the Government, and that there was not only the point with respect to the purposes of recreation and the enjoyment of the parks by the public to be dealt with, but the rights of the Crown as owner, and the danger of riot and disturbance.

CONSECRATION OF CHURCHYARDS.

Lord REDESDALE moved the second reading of the Consecration of Churchyards Bill, the object of which was to diminish the expense at present attendant upon the performance of that rite.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY, whilst concurring in the object of the bill, did not approve of the means devised for attaining it, and moved as an amendment that the religious sanction of the clergy should not be exacted for the new portions of churchyards.

After some discussion their Lordships divided, when the second reading was carried by 53 to 12.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE COMPOUND HOUSEHOLDER.

Mr. HODGKINSON gave notice that, in Committee on the Reform Bill, he should move an amendment to the Ministerial proposals relating to the compound householders, to the effect that no person other than the occupier should be rated to the poor rates in respect of the premises occupied by him within the limits of any Parliamentary borough. Also that, as regards tenancies existing at the time of the passing of the Act, any tenant not then liable to be rated, but who should afterwards be rated in consequence of the provisions of the Act, should be entitled to deduct from his rent the amount which he should have paid for rates until a new arrangement or alteration in the terms of his tenancy should have been made and agreed upon.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, replying to a question of Mr. Baxter, said that, with the exception of matters of state exigency, it was the intention of the Government to proceed with no business whatever until the English Reform Bill had passed through Committee.

THE RAJAH OF MYSORE.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, long and interesting discussion arose in reference to the Maharajah of Mysore. Lord WILLIAM HAY called attention to the despatch of Lord Cranbourne on the subject. Lord Cranbourne reversed the policy of Lord Halifax as to Mysore, and declined to have it annexed. Lord William Hay contends that he is wrong. In the discussion Mr. Smollett, Mr. Laing, Sir E. Colebrooke and many other members took part.

SATURDAY, MAY 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CONVICT BURKE.

The Earl of CLARENDON put a question to the Premier relative to the case of the convict Burke, sentenced to death for high treason, which elicited from the noble Earl the statement that it was the gracious determination of the Queen, by the advice of Ministers, to exercise the Royal prerogative of mercy in the prisoner's favour.

THE ADMIRALTY, DIVORCE, AND PROBATE COURTS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the third reading of the Office of Judge in the Admiralty, Divorce, and Probate Courts Bill, which was opposed by Lord CRANWORTH; but upon a division the bill was ordered to be read the third time by 80 to 40. It was then passed.

STATE OF IRELAND.

The Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill was moved, on the second reading, by the Earl of DERBY. Earl RUSSELL, having made some remarks on Irish grievances, intimated that after the Whitechapel recess he should call attention to the question of the Irish Church Establishment. The bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CONVICT BURKE.

The O'DONOGHUE having inquired whether the Government had recommended that the clemency of the Crown should be extended to the political prisoners now under sentence of death in Ireland,

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that when the Government arrived at the conclusion that it was not their duty to interfere with the operation of the law in the case of Burke, convicted of high treason, they did so with feelings of pain that he would not attempt to describe. Within the last few days, not only in this country but in Ireland, as they had heard from the Lord Lieutenant, there had been such strong evidence of a divided public feeling upon this subject that they had become convinced, after deep and further consideration, that the deterring effect which they wished to produce could not be secured in a state of feeling so divided. He was therefore empowered to announce that her Majesty had been graciously pleased to express her will, under advice, that the capital punishment incurred by Burke should be remitted.

THE REFORM BILL.

The House once more went into Committee on the Representation of the People Bill, when

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER rose and claimed the indulgence of the House whilst he vindicated the Government from the charge of breach

of faith made against them at the Reform meeting on Saturday night, in relation to the clause they had introduced giving effect to the amendment of Mr. Hodgkinson abolishing the compound householder in boroughs. He reminded the Committee that that amendment was accepted as it was interpreted by the rider of Mr. Childers, and in that sense had received the adhesion, approval, and sanction of Mr. Gladstone.

After some remarks from Mr. Mill, Mr. Childers, and Mr. Hodgkinson, Mr. Gladstone said that no charge whatever of breach of faith could lie against the Chancellor of the Exchequer. What he had understood the right hon. gentleman to say was that he accepted the amendment of Mr. Hodgkinson in principle, while reserving to himself the consideration of the means for giving it effect.

The subject of the 4th or county franchise clause was resumed, on the motion of Mr. Secretary HARDY to fill up the blank left on Thursday night with the words "lands or tenements," Mr. Ayrton having withdrawn his amendment to insert the words, "with a tenement erected thereon;" after some observations from Sir J. TROLLOPE, the Committee divided, when the words proposed by Mr. Hardy were ordered to be inserted by 255 to 234, or a majority of 1 for Ministers.

Sir E. COLEBROOKE thereupon proposed to add to "lands or tenements" the words "with a house," and another division took place, without debate, resulting in the amendment being negatived by 264 to 254, which gave a majority of 10 to the Government.

Then followed Mr. L. KING, with a proposal to fix the county rating franchise at £10, instead of £15. A short discussion ensued, in the course of which Sir T. LLOYD, from the Radical benches, and who had voted in the two previous divisions with Ministers, expressed his willingness to accept the offer of a compromise in the shape of a £12 qualification; whilst Mr. PUGH, from the Conservative benches, announced his determination to support the lower figure proposed by the hon. member for East Surrey.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER intimated that he was ready to consent to the alteration of this clause by substituting £12 for £15, which he thought would afford an adequate and satisfactory solution of the question.

Mr. GLADSTONE said he was inclined to think that £10 gave promise of more permanency than £15, and if Mr. L. King went to a division he should vote with him; but, as the difference between £10 and £12 was not very great, he recommended his hon. friend to accept the reduction proffered by the Government.

Mr. L. KING acceded to this advice, and the word "fifteen" having been struck out of the clause, and the amendment in favour of "ten" pounds negatived, on the motion of the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER "twelve" was inserted; and so the county franchise now stands in the bill as a rating occupation of £12 a year.

Other amendments on the county franchise having been either withdrawn or postponed, the House passed over the intervening clauses to clause 34. This dealt with the compound householder. There was a good deal of discussion, but eventually the compounder was abolished, and those amendments of the Government which would have resuscitated him were withdrawn. Very soon afterwards the Chairman was ordered to report progress.

TUESDAY, MAY 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The National Debt Bill and the Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill were read the third time and passed.

In Committee on the Increase of the Episcopate Bill a clause was added, on the motion of Earl GREY, authorising the appointment of assistant bishops to aid any bishop who might stand in need of such help in more effectually discharging his duties, the assistant bishops to be presented to the Crown by the deans, archdeacons, canons, and rural deans of the diocese.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

At the morning sitting the Reform Bill was further considered in Committee.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved to amend the 35th clause by enacting that, where a person, being a compound householder, would be entitled to be registered as an occupier at the first registration of voters after the passing of this Act, if he had been rated to the poor rate for the whole of the required period, such occupier should, notwithstanding he might not have been rated prior to Sept. 29, 1867, as an ordinary occupier, be entitled to be registered, subject to two conditions—the first of which was that he had been duly rated, as an ordinary occupier, to all poor rates in respect of the premises after the liability of the owner to be rated to the poor rate had ceased under the provisions of this Act. The proposal was agreed to without discussion. On the right hon. gentleman moving, as the second condition, that such occupier should, before the 20th of July, 1868, have paid all poor rates which had become payable from him as an ordinary occupier up to the preceding 5th of January, together with all arrears of poor rates, if any, due from the owner, before his liability to be rated ceased, as before provided; at the suggestion of Mr. Gladstone, the words "and which had been demanded" were inserted after the words "have become payable." The condition was further amended, with the assent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and on the motion of Mr. Monk, by leaving out the words "together with all arrears of poor rates, if any, due from the owner," to the end of the paragraph.

Mr. P. SCROPE then moved a proviso, of which he had given notice, exempting from liability to be rated the owners or occupiers of all dwelling-houses within Parliamentary boroughs the rateable value of which is less than £4.

Mr. HIBBERT opposed the motion.

Lord CRANBOURNE supported the motion, believing that if it were rejected the House would depart from its usual principle, and be legislating in favour of the rich against the poor.

Mr. BRIGHT, recognising the borough franchise created by the bill as almost identical with the scheme he himself propounded in 1858, was so satisfied with the measure that, even if he felt a preference for the restriction moved by his right hon. friend, he would not raise the point now, but accept freely and cordially that which the large majority of the House had agreed to. He had no hesitation in saying that he accepted most heartily the generous proposition for an extension of the borough franchise offered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and supported by the Ministerial side of the House; and he believed it would be found hereafter that they had done a great and good thing for the country; and he, who had given more time and labour to this question than any other man in the House, was at least at liberty to say that he thanked the right hon. gentleman from his heart for the conclusion at which the House had been enabled to arrive.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER hoped that nothing would induce the Committee to adopt the motion of Mr. P. Scrope, the effect of which would be to shake and disturb everything that had already been settled in the bill. So far as the borough franchise was concerned, it was now based on a principle intelligible, safe, and popular, and that offered the prospect of permanence.

Mr. GLADSTONE, looking at the bill of the Government as a whole, acknowledged that it conferred a large, liberal, and equal franchise on a large mass of his countrymen who were perfectly qualified for the wise and honest exercise of the franchise. He was not, therefore, prepared to call in the aid of the microscope to determine whether with a stricter hand in this quarter or that limitation should be applied. The bill now satisfied the most ardent aspirations of those who were in favour of household suffrage, pure and simple, and he recommended Mr. Scrope to withdraw his motion.

After a few observations from Mr. J. B. SMITH, also in opposition to the motion,

Mr. SCROPE accepted the advice of Mr. Gladstone, and the clause was ordered to stand part of the bill.

Clauses 5, which created educational franchises for voters in counties and boroughs, and clause 6, providing for the creation of saving banks, tax-paying, and fundholders' franchises, led to a short discussion, which ended by the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER saying that if he did not persist with the clauses it was mainly in deference to the influence of those who, according to the member for Brighton and the member for Bodmin, were "the reactionary party" in the House. Not intending to persist with the 6th clause, and as the 7th related to the dual vote, which the Government had some time since abandoned, the Committee would see that they had now passed "part the first" of the Reform Bill. Clauses 5, 6, and 7 were then negatived, and the Chairman reported progress and obtained leave to sit again on Thursday.

The Metropolitan Police Bill having been read a second time, the sitting was suspended until seven o'clock.

COUNT OUT.

On the house reassembling at nine o'clock an hon. member at once moved that the House be counted; and, though the Speaker prolonged the process of counting as much as possible, only thirty-eight members could be got together, and the House accordingly stood adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

UNIFORMITY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. FAWCETT moved the second reading of the Uniformity Act Amendment Bill, which last year was introduced by Mr. Bouvier, and the object of which is to permit any college at either of the Universities to admit Dissenters to fellowships by dispensing with the declaration of conformity required by the Uniformity Act.

Mr. MORRISON supported the motion.

Mr. SELWYN moved that the bill be read the second time that day six months, and, in doing so, submitted that the question before the House was whether these ancient institutions, the colleges which were founded and endowed by individuals, were to be severed from their connection with the Church of England.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. GORE.

After some observations from Mr. P. Urquhart, Sir W. Heathcote, and Mr. Sergeant Gascoigne,

Mr. GLADSTONE objected to fragmentary legislation, and declined to give his consent to a measure which would not be a complete settlement of the question.

MR. GATHORNE HARDY also opposed the bill, which was supported by Mr. CARDWELL and Mr. BOUVIER. On a division, the second reading was carried by 200 to 156.

THURSDAY, MAY 30.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE EMPEROR MAXIMILLIAN.

Lord STANLEY, in reply to Mr. Monk, said he had no official intelligence with reference to the report that Juarez had ordered Maximilian to be shot. His latest advices were of a date prior to that of the telegram referred to, and stated that the Imperialists had been decisively defeated. The report that the Emperor had been shot was a mere newspaper report, and the hon. member would observe that there were two contradictory stories.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

The House having gone into Committee on this bill,

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said he proposed to postpone clause 8, the recital to Part II. of the bill, in order to bring up an amended clause, which would be laid on the table this evening.

Mr. BRIGHT suggested that the franchise clauses should now be formed into a separate bill, and then they could deliberately proceed to the consideration of the redistribution question.

After some remarks from Sir G. GREY,

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER read the clause as he proposed to amend it, and the motion to postpone it was then withdrawn. The right hon. gentleman having moved his amendments,

Sir G. BOWYER opposed the clause, and raised the general question of disfranchisement. By disfranchising the boroughs mentioned in the clause (Lancaster, Great Yarmouth, Totnes, and Rye), he remarked that they not only disfranchised persons guilty of bribery, but those who were innocent. Boroughs ought not to be disfranchised in consequence of the acts of individuals. He begged to move that the words proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer be not inserted.

Sir R. KNIGHTLEY supported the clause, and remarked that no one had any chance of becoming a member for Great Yarmouth without the influence of bribery.

Mr. GLADSTONE supported the clause, contending that it was absolutely necessary to stamp with infamy places which had proved to be utterly unworthy of the privileges they had enjoyed; and that only to take one member from them would be to proclaim that bribery might be perpetuated for all time.

Mr. BAILLIE was of opinion that the more equitable course would be to suspend the writ for fifteen or twenty years, so as to avoid punishing the next generation for the sins of the present.

Mr. LOWE contended that it would be unjust to disfranchise for all time a large proportion of those classes who were about to be enfranchised in other places.

Mr. HOWES moved that Great Yarmouth be struck out of the clause, and considered it absurd to say that the disfranchisement of one borough would be a warning to any other; while, on the other hand, it would be unjust to punish the whole body of electors on account of the criminality of a portion.

Mr. BRIGHT was sorry to disagree with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Gladstone on this subject. He could not assent to the sweeping proposal of disfranchising the whole borough. The just and proper course would be to disfranchise those electors who had been proved guilty of bribery, and to do that, not for ever, but for a certain period of time.

Lord CRANBROOK contended that there was no injustice in the present proposal. If the proposition of Mr. Bright were adopted, they would never be able to discover bribery in any borough again.

After a few words from Mr. H. Vivian,

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER assured the House that the Government had not arrived at the conclusion they had come to without mature consideration and being convinced it was consistent with sound policy. It was the wish of the Government to divest the question of all party element, leaving the House to deal with it on its own merits.

Mr. HOWES's amendment having been negatived without a division,

The Committee divided upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposal, which was carried by a majority of 325 to 49.

The words of the preamble to the clause were then added.

The clause was then moved, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer's amendment.

Colonel W. PATTEN made a strong appeal on behalf of Lancaster.

Mr. BAXTER moved an amendment to the effect that, instead of being disfranchised, no writ should be issued for Yarmouth and Lancaster until the year 1862.

A long discussion ensued, at the conclusion of which the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER declined to accede to the amendment, which was rejected by a majority of 72.

The clause as amended was then agreed to.

On clause 9 being proposed, which provided that the boroughs contained in schedule A should in future return only one member,

Mr. MILL moved an amendment to the effect that every constituency shall return one member for every quota of its electors actually voting at such election, such quota being a number equal to the quotient obtained by dividing the total number of votes polled throughout the kingdom at the same election by 658.

The amendment was afterwards withdrawn.

The Chairman having reported progress and asked leave to sit again, the other orders of the day were then disposed of.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1867.

GOVERNMENT OF THE METROPOLIS.

WHILE most persons admit that the system of government—or, rather, no government—in the metropolis of Great Britain is sadly in need of reforming, few are agreed as to the exact way in which the work should be accomplished. And no wonder, for the task to be performed is so vast, the Augean stable of abuse is so foul, the complications of the existing machinery are so perplexing, the conflicting interests to be reconciled and the prejudices to be removed are so numerous, so varied, and so strong, that to bring order out of all this chaos may well task the utmost powers of wisdom, energy, and perseverance of our legislators. Scores of Acts of Parliament have to be consolidated, applied, interpreted, or repealed; hundreds of vestries, local boards, and so forth, have to be amalgamated, absorbed, reformed, or abolished; new governing bodies have to be created, new powers conferred, new boundaries fixed; and every existing body, every "vested interest," is a stumbling-block in the way, and has either to be conciliated, persuaded, or coerced into acquiescence in its own annihilation. There is not a Bumble in this mighty wen, from its centre to its extremest limits, east, west, north, and south, who does not deem himself and his office essential to the well-being and orderly existence of the community, and who is not ready to resist his extinction with all the power he can command. The work to be performed in passing a municipal reform bill for London is consequently even perhaps more onerous than that which Mr. Disraeli has undertaken, and so far successfully achieved, in reconstructing the political machinery of the three kingdoms.

In these circumstances, it is not surprising that a variety of schemes should be proposed for improving the government of the metropolis. Of these plans, three have been laid before the public, neither of which, probably, will stand any chance of being adopted in its entirety. First, there is the project partly embodied in the bill brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Mill, which proposes to form the metropolis into municipalities corresponding to the Parliamentary boroughs into which it is now or may hereafter be divided. Each borough or municipality is to have a sort of local Parliament of its own, the whole to be subordinate to and controlled by a central council, the constitution of which has not yet been defined. Next, there is a plan, suggested by the Committee appointed by Parliament and presided over by Mr. Ayrton, which proposes to divide London into wards, with aldermen and a common council to each, and with the central controlling power vested in the Metropolitan Board of Works, but with certain powers reserved for the Home Office to exercise. Mr. Thwaites's board is, of course, to be enlarged and reformed, in order to fit it for the discharge of the new and increased duties and powers to be devolved upon it.

Lastly, there is a scheme shadowed forth by Mr. Locke, M.P. for Southwark, the gist of which is that the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City proper should be taken as a nucleus, and their powers extended over the whole metropolis, in the same way as would naturally have occurred had the Corporation expanded itself contemporaneously with the growth of London, using that word in its most extensive sense. In other words, Mr. Locke proposes that the City should absorb all the outlying districts that have sprung up around it, and which now far exceed it in both extent and population.

Each of these schemes has merits, but to each there are objections. One great difficulty—perhaps the great difficulty—is the City, which will not give up its peculiar privileges; and it is hardly reasonable to expect that it should do so. In the first place, you cannot well abolish the Lord Mayor; for, what would London be, shorn of its civic potentate? Then, the City has special privileges, great wealth, and numerous charities connected with the several guilds or companies of which the Corporation is composed; and City men are, of course, reluctant to either relinquish or share these with the rest of the metropolitan community. Finally, the City has this in its favour, that it is, mangle all shortcomings, the best-governed portion of the whole metropolis; and it is therefore not unreasonable in its claim to be either let alone or allowed a preponderating influence in the councils of the new municipality.

Perhaps the best solution of the difficulty would be found in an amalgamation of the plans of Mr. Mill and of Mr. Locke, with the Metropolitan Board retained as a central committee of works as at present. We should thus have local municipalities of sufficient importance to induce the best class of citizens to take an interest in their affairs and to covet seats at their several council-tables. The Lord Mayor might represent the whole community on official occasions and for purposes of hospitality, and preside in the general municipal councils; while the Board of Works would direct, control, and give practical unity to enterprises undertaken for the common benefit. We should thus have the ornamental and the useful combined, while the work to be accomplished would be so apportioned and divided as to be easily performed by the department to which it was specially assigned. In this way we should also preserve the institutions of the City proper, respectable alike for their antiquity and for the good service they have done in various important and memorable epochs in our national annals. What is good in existing institutions would be conserved, while new elements would be introduced suited to, and commensurate with, the necessities of the times.

But, whatever may be the details of the plan ultimately adopted—and it is plain that the time is not yet ripe for agreement on these—it is beyond dispute that some, and an extensive, reform in the government of the metropolis is needed, and one that will at once give greater power to the central authority and greater energy to the supervision of the extremities. Sanitary improvement is the chief desideratum of the age in London as well as elsewhere, and in this respect the metropolis is very much of a whitened sepulchre: the central portions, which are most exposed to view, and in which the rich and the influential dwell, are made clean, while the outskirts are the abodes of every sort of impurity. The state of Bethnal-green and the East-End generally is notorious; on all hands it is pronounced to be "disgraceful." But the south is not much better. The whole southern district, from Battersea to Woolwich, the generally low-lying character of which calls for special attention, is in a shamefully neglected and unsatisfactory condition. The drainage is defective in the extreme; indeed, it may safely be said that no efficient system of drainage exists at all. It is only in the leading thoroughfares that sewers are to be found, while in hundreds of streets there is not even a pretence of drainage and very little of paving. In wet weather nine out of ten of the streets in Lambeth, Southwark, Bermondsey, Deptford, and Greenwich are mere mud puddles, as anyone may see who travels by railway from Charing-cross to the "Royal" town. In Deptford and Greenwich, to our certain knowledge, for we have looked into the matter, there are whole streets and clusters of streets which are undrained, unpaved, and never cleaned; while, as for Woolwich, it is simply one of the dirtiest places we have ever been in. The inhabitants of these districts are charged sewer rates, but they have

no sewers, or none to speak of. The main southern level sewer has now been many months completed, and, were there efficient local governmental machinery, the sectional drainage ought at least to have been commenced; but nothing has yet been done. The heats of summer are at hand, and cholera and fever are sure to revel there and in the east as they have heretofore done. Verily, London much needs municipal reform in order that the whole city may be made physically sweet, and so make sure that malignant disease does not attack neglected regions, and thence penetrate to the better-cared-for central quarters. By continually holding up to public view the foul condition of the poorer and low-lying suburbs, the necessity for action may be made more apparent. The will to reform the government of the metropolis will thus be created, and when the will exists a way must speedily be found.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN'S forty-eighth birthday was officially celebrated on Saturday last. The usual state and military dinners took place, and the West-End tradesmen exhibited their customary indications of loyalty.

A LEVEE was held at St. James's Palace, on Wednesday, by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on behalf of her Majesty. The presentations were unusually numerous. Drawing-rooms are announced for June 15 and 27, to be held by Princess Alice.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has subscribed 250/- to the Paris Cricket Club.

PRINCESS MARY ADELAIDE OF TECK was delivered of a Princess at midnight on Sunday. The bulletins state that her Royal Highness and the infant Princess are doing "perfectly well."

THE CHILDREN OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS CHRISTIAN are to enjoy the style, title, and attribute of "Highness" prefixed to their respective Christian names, or any titles of honour which may belong to them.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has conferred the grand cordon of the Legion of Honour upon the Duke of Edinburgh.

THE SULTAN is coming to London, and will be lodged in Buckingham Palace as the guest of the Queen. We are not aware that the date of the visit is fixed, but it will probably be at some time towards the end of July.

THE MARQUISE DE BOISSY (Countess Guiccioli) has finished her memoirs of Lord Byron, and the work is ready to appear. It consists of two thick volumes in large 8vo, and will be published by Amyot; the first is already printed, and the second is in the press. The title is "Byron."

DR. SAMUEL JEWKES WAMBRY, who has had since its establishment an extensive practice in the Court of Probate and Divorce, died on Saturday last. He was educated at St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, where he graduated B.C.L. in 1848.

THE REV. ALEXANDER J. D. D'ORSEY, B.D., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, is a candidate for the Professorship of Poetry at Oxford.

MR. CHAPLIN, the owner of Hermit, has given 250 guineas to the almshouses of Epsom, which shelter twelve poor widows.

DR. HOWSON, at present the head of the Collegiate College at Liverpool, and examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Ely, has been appointed Dean of Chester, to succeed the late Dean Anson.

THE ADMIRALTY have issued instructions for the curtailment and better regulation of the whalers of the officers of her Majesty's Navy.

THE REMAINS OF THE LATE ARTEMUS WARD were shipped at Southampton last week in the Deutschland, bound for New York, for final interment in the United States.

THE BUILDING OF A LUNATIC ASYLUM in connection with the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, in Hants, has been commenced.

THE FENIANS IN AMERICA are intending another invasion of Canada. The Canadian military authorities were preparing to give them a warm reception.

LORD DEVON has erased the names of Messrs. Fenwick and Schneider, late M.P.s for Lancaster, from the commission of the peace for the county, and that of Mr. H. T. Wilson from the list of borough magistrates.

THE REMAINS OF DANIEL MANIN are, as is well known, about to be restored to Venice. The body will be received by his son, now General of the national guard of Venice, accompanied by the members of the municipality.

THE PUBLIC DEBT OF BRAZIL at the end of last year was £38,118,995, being an increase of £7,356,706 on the previous year, and which has been caused by the Paraguayan war.

THE AMERICAN GUN-BOAT ASPENLOT has bombarded a place in Formosa, where the crew of the American ship Rover are supposed to have been murdered.

THE ENGLISH CAPTIVES IN ABYSSINIA are still close prisoners in chains; and five more Europeans have recently been added to the number of the captives, who are now fully persuaded that nothing but force will liberate them.

A CROWDED MEETING of the operative tailors who are out on strike was held at the Alhambra Palace, on Wednesday. From the tone adopted by the speakers, it seems that no mode of terminating this unhappy dispute has yet been discovered, but that the two parties are still engaged in mutual recrimination. The resolutions declared confidence in the committee, and a firm resolve to fight the battle to the last.

SOME REVOLUTIONARY PAPER MONEY has been discovered in circulation at Naples. Each of the notes, which are of green paper, professes to represent a value of £1. In the middle are the words "Help for the Roman insurrection," with the signature "Malin Montechi, for the Committee," below.

IN THE PARIS EXHIBITION CATALOGUE readers meet with the names of the English Princess Mary of Teck; of the English painters Tiedt, Trout, Trith, Corbod, Redgrave, Landseer, and Knight; of the Poet of Slumber, in Wales; of Tennyson's "Finnevere," and of Crap-ham Common.

MR. BRADLAUGH has resigned his position as one of the vice-presidents of the Reform League and member of the council and executive. He does so, he states, in order that the League may not any longer be taunted with its irreligion, and that some of its friends may not be pained by having their names associated with his own.

A MONUMENT has been erected at Chlum in memory of the Austrians who fell at the battle of Koniggratz. It is of iron, and consists of a colossal cross on a Gothic pedestal, with the following inscription:—"Sacred to the memory of the brave Austrian warriors who fell for their Emperor and their fatherland. Dedicated by Prince Max Egon and Princess Leontine of Furstenberg, 1866."

THE NEWS of the commutation of Burke's sentence has been received in all parts of Ireland with the greatest delight, the only exceptions being the expressions of disapproval which have emanated from a few of the organs of the most bigoted section of the Orange party and of Lord Derby's friends, the "local gentry."

A COMMISSION appointed by the French Government to inquire into the best means of protecting powder magazines from the effects of lightning, recommends that, instead of the gold or platinum top which generally terminates lightning-conductors, a copper cylinder, two centimetres in diameter, by twenty or twenty-five feet in length, should be used, as this cannot melt, owing to its great conducting power.

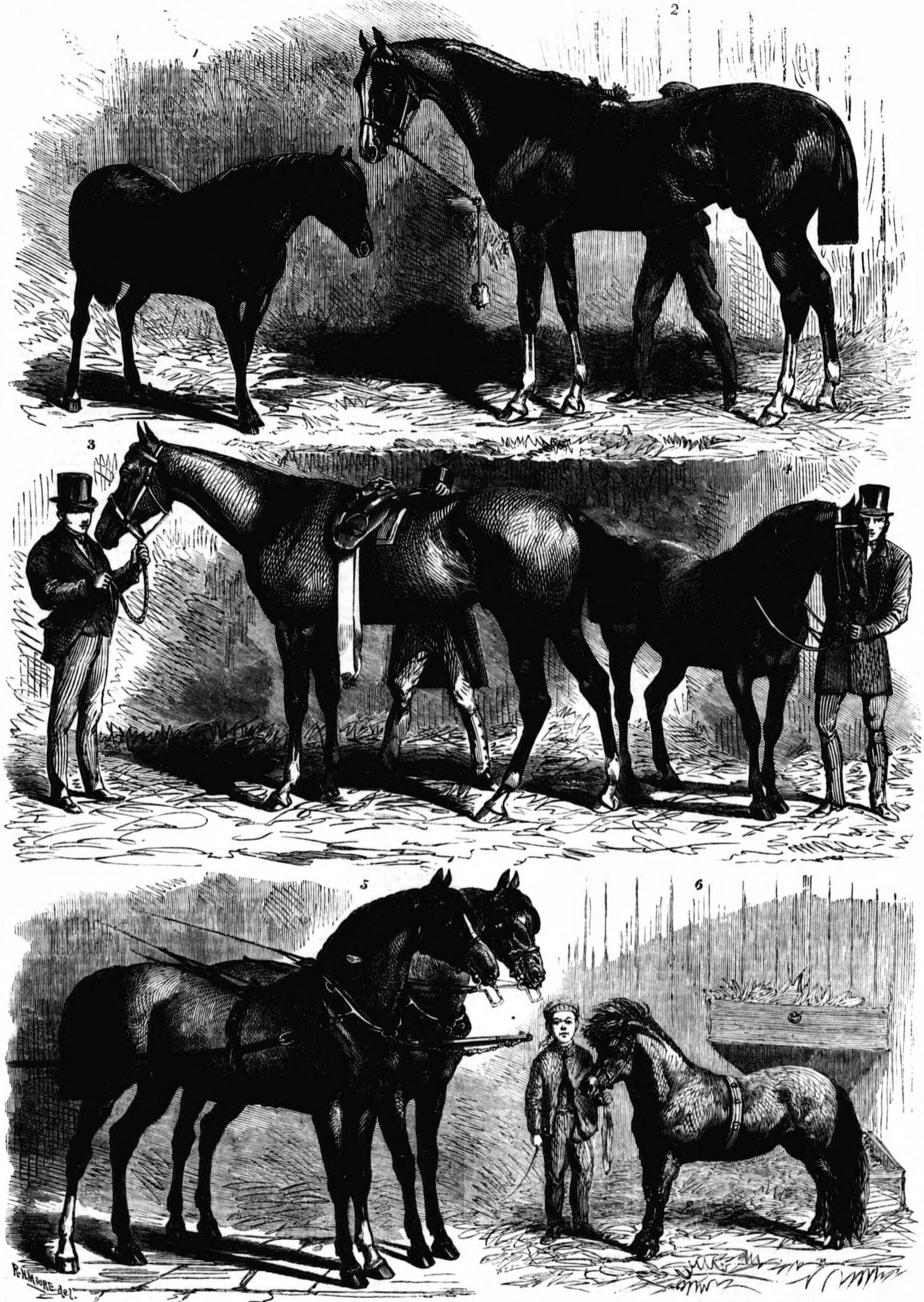
A SEA-SERPENT was reported to have been seen in Loch Sleat, Isle of Skye, and many people were frightened. In order to dispel these fears, Lady Macdonald caused the loch to be netted, feeling sure that only a large fish would be found; but, to the disgust of the fishermen and the amusement of Lady Macdonald and party, who were watching the proceedings, a log of wood was hauled in, so curiously like an alligator and of so dark a colour that those who had seen it afloat were justified in having been alarmed.

MR. RUSKIN recently made the extraordinary statement that Mr. Carlyle could not make his appearance in Chelsea, or, indeed, anywhere in the metropolis, without being subjected to insult. This statement provoked considerable astonishment and no little ridicule and incredulity at the time of its publication. Mr. Carlyle has now written a letter, in which he says that "the thing" going the rounds is not only untrue, but is "in essentials curiously the reverse of the fact."

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SCOTT, secretary to the provisional committee, states that at present the subscription-list to the Central Hall of Arts and Sciences stands thus:—The sum required for the undertaking is £200,000; and there has been subscribed by various persons £112,300, by Messrs. Lucas £38,000, and by her Majesty's Commissioners £50,000; the sittings taken by Messrs. Lucas, as well as those taken by the Commissioners, being still at the command of the public.

THE CEREMONY of laying the first stone in connection with the Holborn viaduct will take place on Monday next, at the northern end of Farringdon-street. Mr. Deputy Fry will perform the principal part in the proceedings, assisted by the Lord Mayor; and a number of distinguished visitors are expected to be present. The stone will be the corner one, and will mark the site of the first pilaster on which the large girders will rest. The weight of the stone, which is of polished granite, is 9 tons, having been reduced 7 tons in the cutting.





1. UNCLE TOM.

2. FALSE ALARM.

3. SPRIG OF NOBILITY.

4. THE DEAN.

5. BEAUTY AND ROUEN.

6. CHILD'S PONY (MR. P. SECHIARI).

THE HORSE SHOW AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL: PRIZE WINNERS.

STATUES OF THE FOUR QUEENS AT THE RECORD OFFICE.

THE central tower of the Record Office, which is now nearly completed, is to have on each of its four sides a statue, under a canopy that stands above the parapet—the Empress Matilda, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Anne, and Queen Victoria. The execution of these statues has been intrusted by Mr. Pennethorne to Mr. Joseph Durham, A.R.A. The statues, which are admirably executed, are above the size of life, a fact that would scarcely be guessed from below.

For the benefit of our younger readers, who may not be quite up in their history, we append a few particulars of the first three of these four Queens regnant of England: of her present Majesty it is, of course, unnecessary to say anything, her life and character are well known to all her subjects, young and old.

Matilda, or Maud, the daughter of Henry I., King of England, and wife of Henry IV., Emperor of Germany, was nominated by her father, in 1135, successor to the English throne; but in her absence, Stephen, the nephew of Henry, usurped the title. Arriving in England with a large army in 1139, she defeated Stephen, and was acknowledged Queen by a Parliament held in 1141. Stephen afterwards defeated the Empress; on which the people declared for him, and Matilda was obliged to leave the kingdom. On the death of the Emperor she married Geoffrey Plantagenet, Earl of Anjou, by whom she had a son, afterwards Henry II. of England. Matilda was born in 1100, and died in 1167.

Elizabeth, Queen of England, was the daughter of Henry VIII., by Anne Boleyn, who was beheaded in 1536. She was educated in the Protestant religion, and, in the reign of her sister Mary, was sent to the Tower, whence she was afterwards removed to Woodstock, where she was kept till 1555, and then taken to the Royal palace of Hatfield. On the death of her sister, in 1558, she was proclaimed Queen, and Philip of Spain, the husband of Mary, made her an offer of marriage, which, after a considerable amount of coqueting, she civilly declined. Now was commenced the restoration of those religious reforms which had been proscribed in the previous reign, but with that prudence and moderation which showed how well qualified she was to guide the destinies of the people over whom she had been called to reign in such troublous times. One of her first measures was to send succours to the reforming party in Scotland, which produced the treaty of Edinburgh and the departure of the French from that country. She next gave her assistance to the French Huguenots, who put Havre de Grace into her hands, whilst she continued gradually to tighten the reigns of government upon her own Catholic subjects and such religionists as would disturb the peace of the State by their zeal and violence. Dudley, Earl of Leicester, became her favourite, and had the ambition to aspire to her hand; she, however, preferred to make an apparent effort to unite him to Mary Queen of Scots. In 1568 that unfortunate Princess fled to England for protection from the religious persecution of her subjects; but being a Catholic, and having offended Elizabeth, she was taken prisoner, and, after being kept many years in confinement, was at last beheaded in Fotheringay Castle. Her treatment of the Queen of Scots, against whom she would appear to have contracted a feeling of jealousy, is one of the blackened spots in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. She afterwards endeavoured to clear herself of the odium which the death of Mary raised against her, and caused Davison, her secretary, to be prosecuted for issuing the warrant for the execution; but such conduct only made her guilt more transparent in the eyes of the penetrating and thoughtful. The French and Spaniards having formed a league for the extirpation of heresy, Elizabeth was induced to protect the Protestants; and her assistance was of great effect in bringing about the separation of the United Provinces from the dominions of Philip II. The King of Spain, in return, sent a body of troops to invade Ireland; but they were all cut off by Lord Grey, the Deputy. In the mean time various offers of marriage were made to the Queen, the most remarkable of which was that of the Duke of Alençon, who came to England for the purpose of espousing her; but, after staying some time, and after Elizabeth had taken up the pen to sign the marriage articles, she withdrew her hand and broke off the alliance. In 1588 Philip of Spain sent against England his famous armada, to which the Pope gave the appellation of invincible. It consisted of 130 vessels carrying 2431 pieces of artillery, 4575 quintals of powder, and was manned by about 27,000 soldiers and seamen. To oppose this formidable force, Elizabeth had 181 ships, manned by about 18,000 sailors. On this occasion the Queen distinguished herself by her great presence of mind and inflexible courage. She rode on horseback through the camp at Tilbury, and inspired her people with heroism by her deportment and her speeches. The English fleet, however, assisted by the winds, prevented the Spaniards from landing, and the boasted armada was destroyed. The Duke of Medina-Sidonia, who commanded the Spanish fleet, escaped, and arrived at Santander, in the Bay of Biscay, with no more than sixty sail out of his whole fleet, and these very much shattered. In sail out of his whole fleet, and these very much shattered. In speaking of this victory, Camden says, "Several monseys were coined; some to commemorate the victory, with a fleet flying with full sails, and this inscription, *Venit, vidit, fugit*—'It came, it saw, it fled'; others, in honour of the Queen, with fireships and a fleet all confusion, inscribed *Dux fæmina facti*—'A woman the leader of the exploit'." In this same year Leicester, her favourite, died, when Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, took his place; but this nobleman, on account of treason, was executed in 1601. After this event Elizabeth seems to have become weary of the world, for she never recovered the shock which the execution of the Earl of Essex gave her. She was born at Greenwich, Sept. 7, 1533; and died March 24, 1603.

Anne, Queen of Great Britain, was the second daughter of James II. by Lady Anne Hyde, daughter of the great Earl of Clarendon. In 1668 she married Prince George of Denmark, by whom she had several children, all of whom died young. In 1702, on the death of William III., she succeeded to the Crown. Her reign was a continual scene of public glory, and the domineering power of the French nation was completely subdued by the vigour of the British troops under the command of the Duke of Marlborough. One of the greatest events of this important reign was the union of Scotland with England. On account of the number of eminent literary characters who flourished in her reign, it has been called the Augustan age of Britain. Anne was born in 1665, and died in 1714.

THE HORSE SHOW.

THE fourth great horse show at the Agricultural Hall was opened on Saturday last, at ten o'clock in the morning. Early, however, as was the hour, it did not prevent a very large attendance assembling. Soon after the doors were opened, and before the middle of the day, every part of the large arena was crowded. As is usually the case at these attractive displays, at least one half of those present were ladies. All the arrangements for the proper care and comfort of the horses are made this time with the same forethought and perfection as have been so justly praised on former occasions. Each has its own loose box to itself, and each its own special attendants. Notwithstanding the presence of such a large number of animals—and there never were so many as on the occasion of this show—the building is admirably ventilated, and, though not exposed to the draughts which last year made it so miserable, both to men and horses, the atmosphere, though mildly warm, is still kept pure and sweet. As is the nature of these displays, each year increases their intrinsic merit, and therefore their attractiveness to the general public, and there is no public in the world so entirely appreciative of the merits of a good horse as the English. In the eyes of most of our countrymen the horse is less a servant than a companion. Possibly a better time of the year might be chosen for such an exhibition; but beyond this it would be difficult to suggest an improvement, except, possibly, that of putting the jumping-hurdle for the hunters in the centre of the arena instead of at the sides, where the crowds and cheers of spectators make them both shy and awkward in rising to their leaps. As has always been the case, the show is by no means limited to horses alone, but includes, also, all

the newest descriptions of carriages and harness. These are ranged in the arcade near the Islington-green entrance, and are as well worth seeing of their kind as the horses and ponies themselves. In the latter class, and also in that for carriage-horses, roadsters, and weight-carrying cobs, some beautiful animals are shown. In racers the show cannot be said to be a very strong, but in hunters there is such a collection as has probably never been seen together under one roof before.

The duty of the judges commenced on Saturday morning soon after the hall was opened by deciding on the merits of the weight-carrying hunters equal to not less than 15 stone. Some idea may be formed of the excellence of this class when it is said that there were no less than fifty-two entries, and all, without exception, beautiful animals. The first prize of £100 was most deservedly given to a powerful bay hunter called Sprig of Nobility, the property of Major Stapeyton, of Myton Hall, Yorkshire. It would be difficult to imagine a more perfectly and powerfully shaped hunter, and the price placed on him (nearly 700 gs.) was thought by the best judges to be not more than his fair value. The second prize fell to Mr. Joseph Gilman, of Birmingham, the owner of Little John; though, as his name implies, this horse is undersized, it is still a first-class animal, and very many were of opinion that it as much deserved the first prize as Sprig of Nobility itself. The third prize, of £40, was given to a five-year-old grey, owned by Mr. Deacon, of Alresford, Hants. In the second class of hunters, for carrying lighter weights, there were no less than forty-four entries. One of these, Ruby, a beautiful chestnut mare, attracted an immense amount of admiration from the general public, for both her form and action seemed perfect. The judges, however, declined to admit her merits, and gave the first prize to Mr. Henry Saunders, of Northampton, for his bay gelding Brayfield, the second to Mr. Lucy's Goldfinch, and the third to Mr. De Winton for a beautiful hunter called Springy Jack. It was in judging of this class that the hurdles were used to see how the horses would take their fences. Not much can be said of this performance, for what between bad riding and the bad position of the hurdles, fixed close under the noses of the spectators, very few of the horses would look at them at all. In the third class of hunters there were only eleven entries. The first prize was taken by Mr. James Morrison for Countess, the second by Mr. Horace Beck for Hawk, an Irish horse. In the fourth class of four-year-old hunters there were nineteen competitors. Mr. Gee took the first prize with Tom, a magnificent animal, over sixteen hands high; and the second was awarded to Ruby, the property of Mr. Topham.

The next class ordered out was that of thorough-bred stallions. Were we to see anything very wonderful or not? Two years since a £200 prize brought out some of the "cracks," but last year the drop to two prizes of £40 and £20 each left them out, and on the present occasion precisely the same sums are competed for. Well, eight thorough-breds were led into the ring. The second prize went to Beckhampton, a bright bay four-year-old, exhibited by Mr. J. B. Starky, of Longworth, Faringdon, an exceedingly good horse; and the first prize was carried off by False Alarm by Trumpeter, bred by Earl Spencer, and shown by Captain F. Barlow, of Hasketon, Woodbridge. This is an uncommonly pretty stallion, standing sixteen hands, with fashion about him as well as shape and bone, and he is a charming mover; in fact, nothing can be said against him, except that his colour is chestnut, with four white legs and a white face and muzzle.

Next came a score of stallions, "not less than fifteen hands high, for getting roadsters or hacks"—with the exception of the first-prize horse, rather a sorry lot. The blue ribbon went to Quicksilver Shales, the property of Mr. John Grout, of the Bull Hotel, Woodbridge, an extraordinarily good chestnut, full of fast-trotting blood from Quicksilver, Performer, Old Prickwillow, Phenomenon, Shales, and so on. The orange ribbon, or third prize, was taken by Shepherd F. Knapp, a horse belonging to Mr. Jno. Edwards, of Ealing. This chestnut, bred in America and now ten years old, may be nothing very marvellous to look at; but, according to the catalogue, he is "the fastest trotter and grandest goer in Europe," and a card on his box informs us that he is "the champion of the world." The "public time" of this trotting stallion is half a mile in 1 min. 10 sec., two miles in 4 min. 54 sec., and three miles in 8 min. 10 sec., performed over the Liverpool racecourse.

In the class of ten stallions "under 15 hands high, for getting hacks, cobs, or ponies," the first prize was withheld for want of merit; the second prize went to Golden President, belonging to Mr. J. D. Lewis, of Petersfield; and the third prize to a particularly pretty brown Arab, of Mr. F. Ferguson, of Risby Park, Beverley. Peculiarities in this class were Mr. Samuel Cotterell's spotted pony, Rory O'More; and Bobby, a beautiful little bit of pluck and fire, led in a blinkered bridle. He is entered by the Marchioness of Hastings, and priced at "1000 gs."

On Monday the Agricultural Hall was opened for the purposes of this exhibition at nine o'clock in the morning; and shortly after that hour the visitors began to arrive in quick succession. It was originally arranged that the competition for harness-horses should take place at ten; but the trials were postponed, much to the disappointment of many who made their way to Islington to witness this exhibition of strength and form. The horses of this class, however, were brought into the arena at three o'clock, and their practice was viewed in all cases with pleasurable anxiety and in many instances with well-deserved admiration. After the animals had been driven round the arena several times, the judges—Sir George W. Wombwell; Colonel N. Kingscote, C.B.; and Mr. Harvie Farquhar—awarded the first prize to Mr. John R. Kirby, for a beautiful chestnut mare, Violet, 15 hands 1 inch high. Captain Spiers, M.P., Eaton-square, took the second prize for an exquisitely-formed bay mare, with the appropriate and suggestive name of "Beauty"; and the third honour fell to Mr. Thomas Bradfield, Bishop-Stortford, for a chestnut horse, who displayed great style and form in his performance in the arena. Captain Spiers also obtained the extra prize for harness pairs, with Beauty and Roseau, another pretty creature of the same colour and exactly the same height.

Great interest was evinced in the trials of the little animals grouped under class 11—ponies not exceeding 14 hands, in single harness—and the high action and clear regular stepping of many of them were fully commensurate with the anticipations of the spectators. The first prize fell to the lot of Mr. James Wilson, Cedar Cottage, Enfield, who showed an almost perfect animal, which, from its name and shape, might well be called Pretty Little Polly. A dun mare, Camperdon Lass, belonging to Mr. William Burton, Marylebone, came next in the order of merit; and Dot, the property of Captain Spiers, M.P., obtained third place, being separated by no great degree from her more fortunate rivals. The arrival in the ring of the tiny competitors in class 12—of ponies not exceeding 13 hands—was received with mingled laughter and applause, the laughter arising on account of the littleness of the animals, and the applause from the spirit and energy which they displayed. After a long trial, in which the judges found considerable difficulty in distinguishing between the merits of the most prominent competitors, the blue ribbon was ultimately presented to Mr. M. F. Pilcher, the owner of Pink, a beautiful cream-coloured pony, 12 hands high, whose stepping certainly entitled it to the high position it obtained. Uncle Tom, the property of Mr. John William Richardson, Willoughton, Lincolnshire, ran Pink very closely for the first prize given in this class; and Mr. Lewis Myers's chestnut roan stallion Ruby was a formidable rival to both the little quadrupeds we have mentioned.

In class 6, for cover hacks and roadsters not exceeding 15 1/2 hands, the Earl of Rosslyn carried off the first prize with The Dean, a dark brown horse of much beauty.

A GORILLA-HUNT took place in Derbyshire on Sunday. Three of these animals escaped from a menagerie at Belper; and, after consulting together on the top of the caravan, they all made for the road to Derby. A great amount of difficulty was experienced in effecting their capture, but ultimately they were all safely lodged in their dens without injury to any one. M. Du Chaillu's work scarcely contains anything more sensational or exciting.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE enfranchisement clauses of the English Reform Bill have all been settled; the fancy franchises have been eliminated from the bill; and the Committee is now discussing Part II. of the bill, containing the clauses which redistribute the seats. And if Disraeli shall be as free to make concessions in Part II. as he was in Part I., we may get the bill through Committee before Whitsuntide. Some members are so sanguine as to think that this will be done. I confess, though, that I can hardly hope that this work of redistribution will be performed so swiftly as these sanguine people suppose. Besides, there are sundry interpretation clauses to be added which will evoke a good deal of discussion. However, we shall, I think, certainly send the bill up to the Lords before the end of June. And now, as we used to ask in 1831, what will the Lords do? Well, I suspect that they will pass the measure in a fortnight. I know rumour is whispering that they will reject it. I do not believe this for a moment. Lord Derby is king there. He holds great many proxies, and he will keep the Conservative Lords all right; and as to the Liberals, they—except such men as Lord Grey and a few others—will not obstruct it. I think we may be sure that Lord Derby would not have ventured to consent to such a bill as this if he were not quite sure that he has the power to get the Upper House to pass it.

There has been a good deal of opposition manifested by the Scotch members to the redistribution part of their bill; and, unquestionably, if this scheme be not altered, the sturdy Scotch Liberals will war to the knife against it. But it is whispered that some compromise is already afoot—compromise of a satisfactory character; and if this be so, the principles of the bill being much the same as those of the English measure, and not at all distasteful to the Scotch Liberals, there will be no reason why this bill should not get through the House in a fortnight. The Irish bill is not yet on the table of the House, and will not be until after Whitsuntide; but, if it be as simple as it is said to be, though of course there will be an immense deal of Irish eloquence expended, that bill will not take much time. On the whole, then, I should not be surprised if all this reform business should be finished off by the end of July; at all events, it is now almost a certainty that the three bills will be law before the vacation. In that case, the registers under the new law will be completed by the end of next year. In the spring of 1869 we shall have a general election; and then—what pleases fate.

Meanwhile, until then the Derby Government, one would think, unless it should make some egregious blunder, will keep in. I do not believe that with Disraeli at its head it will blunder, for a more dexterous, adroit, clever leader of the House we have not had for many years. The manner in which he has worked the English bill thus far through Committee is something unprecedented. The ingenuity with which he has wriggled out of difficulties—his singular reticence of speech when there were the strongest temptations to talk—his bold concessions—his ingenious way of justifying them—his mastery over his own party, absolutely quelling, as if by a spell, all opposition to concessions which must have been nauseous to old Conservative members, are simply wonderful. History affords us nothing like it. But you may say, at what cost of character, &c.? But "no more of that, Hal, if you love me." The Liberals have nothing to complain of. If there is to be any quarrel on that score, it must be between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his supporters when the spell shall be removed, and the country gentlemen shall awake as from a dream, and see what they have done. All Liberals have to consider is this: we have got a larger measure of Reform out of Conservatism than Whiggery could have got passed in a dozen years. But what of these terrible prophecies of Lowe—the lamentations of Lowe, as they have been called? Well, this is my opinion about Lowe and his laments. He has got a fit of the horrors upon him, like that of Earl Eldon who, when Catholic emancipation was passed, declared that England's sun was set. But this will pass away; and then mark this, and take a note of it. Lowe will step to the front, and use the democratic power which now so alarms him to pass some very bold measures of Reform. For this gentleman is no Tory nor Conservative, apart from this Reform question, but a Radical, and has schemes fermenting in that clear head of his which will astonish the world not a little when he brings them out. The education of the people, the opening and purgation of the Universities, the abolition of the Irish Church, the reform of our own, Church rates swept away, and every departmental Augean stable cleansed. By-the-by, here is an anecdote worth repeating. "What did you think of Lowe's speech?" said a Conservative to a Radical? "Well, some parts of it reminded me of the poor Esquimaux, who, when the missionaries described a certain place as very hot, asked to be led there immediately."

The blackguardly louts of Westminster Bridge-road have resumed their summer Sunday evening amusement of hustling, assaulting, and insulting young women as they are leaving church. For several weeks past batches of these low scoundrels have been brought before the magistrates each Monday morning charged with committing assaults, generally of an indecent character, upon females in the neighbourhood mentioned. Similar conduct used to be followed in Islington and elsewhere—perhaps is so still, though we hear nothing of it. As a rule, the fellows escape serious punishment in consequence of the injured parties failing to appear against them, as is very natural, for modest girls do not care to figure in police courts; and so senseless, graceless scamps are encouraged to continue the practice. Could not the respectable young men of the neighbourhood cure the evil more effectively than the police seem able to do? I do not like, as a rule, to recommend taking law out of the hands of its recognised guardians; but a few canes in willing hands would tell more upon the vagabonds who commit the offensive actions referred to than five-shilling fines or short imprisonments. Physical pain is the only argument such brutes understand. Let them feel it, gentlemen of the Westminster Bridge-road; and I am sure the police, if they do not help you, will wink hard the while.

Visitors to Paris this year will be glad of all helps that enable them to make their way in the French capital with ease and comfort; and, consequently, I am glad to notice that numerous guides, price-books, &c., have been issued for the use of visitors to the Exhibition. Some of these books are good, while others are but indifferent; but even an inferior guide is better than none. Among those which are not inferior, however, are two little works that lie before me. One is "Cassell's Guide to Paris; What to See and How to See It," published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin. The other is a "Complete French and English Phrase-book for Travellers," which emanates from the house of Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. Both books are convenient in size and both are sure to be serviceable.

Speaking of books, I may mention that Messrs. Routledge have commenced to issue an "Illustrated Natural History of Man in All Countries of the World." It is edited by the Rev. J. G. Wood, well known as a naturalist, is profusely illustrated, and seems carefully got up. The work opens with an account of the African races, the first chapters being devoted to the Kaffirs.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

It is a curious fact that central London has now been struggling along for some years without an equestrian theatre, and it is an equally curious fact that nobody seems to have noticed the deficiency until it occurred to Messrs. McCollum and Charman to supply one. "Scenes in the circle" belong to a class of entertainment which people are willing enough to go and see when the fact of its existence is brought directly under their notice; but, in its absence, there are plenty of other amusements in London, and it can be done very well without. There is an undoubted sameness about all equestrian performances, which is a drawback, in the eyes of the habitual theatre-goer, who is accustomed to a total change of programme whenever he seeks dramatic entertainment. The lady who jumps through "balloons" and over ribbons, on a chalky horse; the gentleman with the long hair, who rides on every part of his steed except his back; the semi-military riding-master, who humours with kindly

condescension the familiarities of the mustachioed clowns; the haughty beauty, who is much too correct to think of such a thing as flying through a hoop in short petticoats, and who only appears in a real riding-dress, on a horse which might have come out of Rotten-row, and which, we are taught to believe, can dance to the music of a full band, the full band itself, jerky from its well-meant endeavours to heighten the deception by accommodating its time to the intermittent pawing of the high-mettled steed; and the servants with the long hair curling under, who always look like French midshipmen; we have seen all these things so often that it is small wonder, after all, that the enterprising people who get up these things should have thought it wise to give our amusement-seekers time to forget the well-worn old entertainment before they invest money and trouble in placing it again on the list of London amusements. Messrs. M'Collum and Charman appear to think that the necessary time has elapsed; and very probably they are right. They have built an exceedingly pretty amphitheatre—light, spacious, and commodious—and they have added a small theatre, which may in time fill an important space in the programme. Although Messrs. M'Collum and Charman have retained a few of the old and well-worn features of circus amusements, the majority of the entertainments present some novel feature, particularly Captain Austin's zouave drill, which is really marvellous in its precision, and M. Fillis' "Fire-Horse, Zamor," which stands quietly on a bridge while dozens of fireworks are discharged about it. The clowns (there are five of them) are above the average of their kind; two of them ("les Frères Daniels") are extremely clever. The only drawback to the complete success of the performances was a silly farce by Mr. John Oxenford, with ghost effects by Mr. Pepper, and which was more unequivocally "damned" than any piece I ever saw, except only a farce called "Uncle Baby," which was produced at the Lyceum four years ago. Everyone was delighted to find that Mr. Oxenford had sufficiently recovered from his recent dangerous illness to be present in the flesh on the occasion of the opening of the Amphitheatre, but everyone was pained to find Mr. Oxenford placing his honoured and respected name to such utter trash as "The Grim Griffin Hotel; or, The Best Room in the House." Mr. Pepper's "illusions" all failed, and the curtain descended amid a storm of hisses and ironical calls for the author, which were not responded to. However, the farce was only supplementary to the equestrian amusements; and, as far as the entertainment proper was concerned, the managers have every reason to be quite satisfied with the prospect of success which was held out to them on Saturday evening.

RAILWAY SPEED.—A comparison of a large number of examples has enabled the Railway Commission to make the following statement:—In England the express trains run generally, including stoppages, about 40 miles per hour; the average of all the examples of the quickest trains (omitting suburban) gives 36½ miles per hour; the ordinary trains run generally from 18 to 30 miles per hour; the average of all the examples of the slowest trains gives 19½ miles per hour. In France the express trains run, including stoppages, 25 to 35 miles per hour; the average of the quickest examples is 31 miles; the ordinary trains run from 16 to 25 miles per hour; the average of all the examples of the slowest trains is 18 miles per hour. In Belgium the quickest trains run from 29 to 35 miles per hour; the slowest, 18 to 23. In Prussia the quickest, 29 miles; the slowest, 17 to 21. In Bavaria and Austria the quickest, 20 to 29 miles; the slowest, 14 to 21. In the Rhine the quickest, 24 to 32 miles; the slowest, 18 to 24 miles. In Italy the quickest, 24 to 30 miles; the slowest, 15 to 24 miles.

THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY AND THE PROTESTANTS.—In reply to a protest from clergy and laity of the deanery of Dorchester which has lately been published, the Bishop of Salisbury has made the following communication:—“ Bradford Peverel, May 20:—My dear Sir.—The address which was signed by you and eight other clergymen and fifteen laymen reached me on Saturday before I left Dorchester. When I asked my brethren to give my whole charge a calm and patient and dutiful consideration, I did not expect to receive, within an hour and a half of my addressing a part of it to them, an expression of opinion about it from any of them. I thank all who signed the address for their assurance of their earnest prayers for me, and I remain your faithful brother, W. K. SARUM.—Rev. H. Moule.” The Rev. H. Moule rejoins at some length. He says:—“ My act in so protesting was prompt, but it was neither a hasty act nor was it the result of impatience; and if it bears on it the appearance of undutifulness to your Lordship, I solemnly declare it to have been done after much previous consideration and under a deep and conscientious sense of duty—but duty not merely to your Lordship, but to the people committed to my ministerial charge, to my Church, and to my Lord and Master in heaven. For, although I utterly reject as a fiction of man your Lordship’s claim for us clergy of regal, judicial, and supernatural powers, I yet claim to be, through God’s grace, an ambassador of Christ. With full consideration of the deep import of those words, I claim to have been moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon me that office, and ‘to have been truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the due order of this realm, to the ministry of the Church.’ For half a century, either in the preparation for the ministry or in its exercise, not only have the Holy Scriptures been my study and delight, but in actually approaching the heart-searching God in the use of the services of our Church (and especially, I may say, in that for the holy communion), I have calmly and solemnly weighed their every expression.” He refers to his consideration of the subject as soon as the summaries of the charge had been published, and says that, having since read the entire charge, “I find nothing in any way to weaken, but very much to increase, our condemnation of the doctrines held by your Lordship and set forth in that charge. These doctrines, against which we have protested, have not been shown by your Lordship to be supported by our Articles or Liturgy. You have not proved them by ‘certain warranty of Holy Scripture.’ You cannot so prove them. To the Articles, the Liturgy, and the Holy Scriptures they are directly opposed. Against them, therefore, I repeat individually my solemn and earnest protest.”

THE CRYSTAL PALACE FLOWER SHOW.—The first great flower show of the season was held on Saturday last, and, though it may not have equalled in the beauty and excellence of the specimens shown some of the displays of previous years, it certainly surpassed any of them in general arrangement, which was as perfect as the highest regard to artistic distribution could effect. The flowers were exhibited on long lines of tables, which stretched the whole length of the grand nave, with an interval, of course, in the centre transept; and also on three tiers of benches, which were ranged along the sides, and had been specially erected for the occasion. Over all an awning, shaped like a minaret at the edges, was stretched; and even in this particular greater care was manifestly taken than is usually bestowed on so ephemeral a structure. Though this covering deprived the visitors of the view of the *tout ensemble* from the galleries around the building, which is always one of the most pleasing attributes of these exhibitions, it certainly supplied more than equivalent advantage in the fact that it protected them from the chilly draughts of a keen east wind which they would otherwise have had to bear. Among so great a variety of plants and flowers as that presented at the show it is difficult to decide what class deserved the highest degree of admiration, but if any is to be placed first it must certainly be that in which the pelargoniums were placed. Nothing could exceed the luxuriance and beauty of some of the specimens of this choice and delicate flower, exhibiting, as they did, every conceivable hue and tint, from the deepest crimson to the palest white. The azaleas, as usual, largely contributed to the decorative elements of the display, and though there were but few of remarkable size in this class, those exhibited were exquisitely beautiful as regarded the thickness and richness of their bloom. Scarcely any of the leaves were visible; the specimens, in fact, constituted perfect pyramids of colour. To the roses, as a matter of course, a large degree of the attention of the visitors was directed, and the display made in this section, though not so extensive as others which had been provided, was of itself worth a journey to the palace to see. There were cut roses of almost every colour—crimson, red, white, and yellow—those of the last-mentioned tint being especially remarkable for what we may call the solidity of their appearance. The roses in pots did not reach the usual standard, but there were a few which would be reckoned excellent in any floricultural exhibition. The exotics, though generally deficient in that picturesqueness which colour always provides on this occasion, constituted by no means the least interesting feature of the show. The leaves of some of the ferns were distributed on their stems with almost mathematical accuracy, some of them being remarkable for unusual length and fulness. One plant without bloom in this division was especially conspicuous for the deep green colour of its foliage, and also for the peculiarly beautiful construction of its leaves. Each of these appeared to be composed of two, which had amalgamated and become one in the process of their growth. Though not very prominent in the show, the Cape heaths were greatly admired, especially by the fairer section of the visitors. In the exquisite formation of some of the flowers on these plants, which can only be compared to little bells of shining wax, Nature seemed to have really availed herself of the aid of the mechanism of art. Besides these larger specimens, some wonderfully beautiful little groups of growing flowers and plants were shown on stands similar to those employed for the decoration of dinner-tables. The mould was entirely invisible, and nothing could be conceived more beautiful than the arrangement and luxuriance of these liliaceous parterres. Altogether, the exhibition was a success; but we would recommend the management to reconsider their decision before the next show of charging so high a price for admission.

Literature.

Josh Billings, his Book of Sayings. With Introduction by E. P. HINGSTON, Companion of “Artemus Ward” in his Travels. London: John Camden Hotten.

We do not know who may have been the originator of the American style of wit; but as its peculiarities were first made generally known in this country through the writings of the late Mr. Charles Browne, or, as he was best known, “Artemus Ward,” we naturally accord to that gentleman the merit of the invention, and are apt to regard all others as mere imitators. In this notion we are confirmed by the fact that none of the Yankee wits with whom we are acquainted—except, perhaps, the author of “The Biglow Papers”—come up to the standard of poor Artemus. The others follow in his track, but at a considerable distance. They have caught something of the facetious showman’s manner, but the pith of his matter is generally far beyond their reach. “Josh Billings, his Book of Sayings,” is undoubtedly the best specimen of what we deem Ward’s imitators that we have seen; but it is decidedly best in its short, sententious “Sayings,” “Remarks,” “Depozitions,” “Affurisms,” &c. The longer essays are too laboured—too intensely local (if such a phrase may be allowed in regard to so “big” a place as America), and too much disguised by oddities of spelling, to be generally appreciated. Some of the short deliverances, however, are really good. As, for instance:—“Rise early, work hard, and late, live on what you kant sell, giv nothing away; and if you don’t die ritch, and go to the devil, you may sue me for damages.” “There is one thing I kant never forget, nor I hain tried to, and that is, the fust time I kissed a gal.” “Marrin for love ma be a little risky, but it is so honest that God kant help but smile on it.” “Don’t hav enny more sekrets than yu kan keep yuresself.” “That moste men had rather sa a smart thing than tew dew a good one.” “That there iz 2 things in this life which we are never fully prepared for, and that iz twins.” “That men ov genas are like eagles, the live on what the kill; while men ov talents are like crows, they live on what haz bin killed for them.” “That ‘a little larnin iz a dangerous thing;’ this iz az true az it iz common.” “If yu want tew git a sure krop and a big yield for the seed, sow wilde oats.” “Wise men don’t expeck tew do away with the vicissitudes ov life, they onla expeck tew blunt the edge ov them.” “Truth is stranger than fikshun—that is, tew some folks.” “I don’t know of but one thing on arth that kan improve a good wife, and that iz buty.” “Sum people hav the power of saying a good deal in a few words, while others hav the power ov saying a little in a good menny words.” This last “affurism” certain authors and orators would do well to bear in mind. We could pick out other sayings equally good, or better, but will conclude our notice of Josh Billings by quoting this sensible hint to the ladies (will they take it?):—“The peacock has one ov the most butifullest tails in the world; but i tak notis that he don’t drag it on the ground when he walks out.” We ought to add that Mr. Hingston has written a very neat introduction to the “Book ov Sayings,” in which he tells us who and what the author is, and how he discovered him.

Sporting Incidents in the Life of another Tom Smith, Master of Fox-hounds. Author of “The Diary of a Huntsman,” &c. With Illustrations. London: Chapman and Hall.

It is to the credit of sportsmen that sporting incidents have interest for non-sportsmen, into which two classes all sporting men consider the world divided. It is one of those things of which a great number of people have at leat seen a little and would fain be thought to know a great deal. Every Londoner now sees something of the country; and even the musty student of letters finds it pleasant to be reminded of that strange morning when he found himself at the cover-side, or with a gun in his hand for the first time. This is one of the pleasantest and least affected books of its kind. “Another” Tom Smith distinguishes himself from the late Thomas Asheaton-Smith, but between them no comparison need be made. Our Tom Smith seems to have been a distinguished gentleman in many ways. Twice master of the Hambleton hounds, and of the Craven and the Pytchley, a hunter, shooter, and fisher amongst the best, he is still, at an advanced age, High Sheriff for Hampshire, and an efficient member of the 1st Hants Light Horse. An “advertisement” says (the book is not written by Mr. Smith himself) many useful inventions have been the fruit of his fertile brain, ranging from the improvement of pastures and the preservation of fruit to the “Iron Duke” bit and a locomotive battery; and he has also found time to offer suggestions as to recruiting military colonies in India, the improvement of the metropolis, &c., to the proper authorities, which his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Palmerston, and others have thought well worth consideration. We may add to this that Mr. Smith’s own pen-and-ink drawings, which illustrate the present volume, are very excellent specimens of such art. But that praise cannot be given to the literature of the book, which is slovenly beyond expression; but it contains many incidents of exciting adventure and some good anecdotes, which might almost be interleaved with Charles Lever’s earliest pages. As usual in such works, the author has thought it right to leave nothing that he knows untold, and therefore some pages are flat indeed. That is no great fault. The impression left on the mind is that of a good and gallant gentleman, whose greatest mistake was in showing off his indomitable horsemanship at the expense of his horse!

The Thames, Illustrated by Photographs. Second Series: Cookham to Whitchurch. By RUSSELL SEDGFIELD. London: A. Marion, Son, and Co.

We had last year the pleasure of cordially welcoming the first series of Mr. Russell Sedgfield’s photographic illustrations of the Thames, embracing the principal scenes between Richmond and Ciefden. We have now the satisfaction of receiving the second series, comprising views between Cookham and Whitchurch, which is distinguished by all the excellencies that made the first series so beautiful and so valuable. The scenes photographed are some of the finest of the many with which the magnificent valley of the Thame abounds; and, from the admirable manner in which the work has been performed, full justice is done to the varied and marvellous beauties of some of the prettiest scenes in England, perhaps in Europe. Each view is accompanied, as in the previous series, by a neatly-written and interesting descriptive account of the place represented, including its history, traditions, associations, and so forth; and altogether the work is a perfect gem, and is sure to be a favourite in the artist’s studio, as well as on the drawing-room table of every one pretending to taste or to take an interest in the beauties and sweet landscapes of our native land. We are glad to learn that a third series, giving views from Whitchurch to Oxford, is in preparation.

Lady Lisle. By the Author of “Lady Audley’s Secret,” &c. Revised Edition. London: Ward, Lock, and Tyler.

“Lady Lisle” is one of the very earliest novels of Miss Braddon, and was ushered into the world—was wooden-spooned rather than silver-ladled into the world—with no worse luck than could be comprised in the fag-end pages of the *Welcome Guest*. But it met with attention then, and people may have wondered that it has not earlier come to the “estate” of a library edition. It is in one sense especially a curious piece of literature. It shows beyond doubt that “what is bred in the bone will come out in the flesh.” It is as unmistakably Miss Braddon’s as that the sunshine comes from the sun. A little more gloomy, perhaps; for it comprises a widowhood, a bigamy, several deaths and murders, accidents innumerable, a “changed child,” a rightful heir kept in seclusion until the proper time, and such villains, ferocious and bland, as do not often crop up in fiction. Miss Braddon has done something of the same kind half a dozen times since, and her admirers have now an opportunity of seeing an early plume of the popular wing. The volume ranges with the well-known reprinted series.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

(FOURTH NOTICE.)

The West Room would be a noticeable room this year if only because therein Mr. Vicat Cole, whose name has hitherto been associated with one class of subject, has asserted his power in a far wider range. His choice has evidently been guided by love rather than by lack of power. He who could so poetically render the tenderness of spring and the loveliness of sunset, is equally at home when he illustrates the lines of Tennyson’s “Palace of Art” (489)—

One showed an iron coat and angry waves,
You seemed to hear them climb and fall,
And roar rock-thwarted under bellowing caves,
Beneath the windy wall.

(We have so often indicated the ignorant blunders of the Academy catalogue that it is mere waste of time and space to draw the attention of Mr. H. Eyre, Registrar to the Royal Academy, to the illiterate absurdity of “an iron coat,” as printed in the first line of this quotation.) In this picture, as in the view of “St. Bride’s Bay, Pembrokeshire” (524), Mr. Cole proves that his success depends on no narrow appreciation of nature, but that he can touch our hearts, whether he deals in violets or breakers.

Mr. Graham, whose “Spate in the Highlands” was a “sensation” picture last year, will disappoint the majority of his admirers. His picture (461) attempts to tell us how,

In the crimson clouds of eve
The lingering light decays.

It gives us a painterly reflex of gloaming without its poetry.

Although we fear that Mr. Leader’s method of painting is hardly calculated to endure, we prefer such pictures as he gives us to Mr. Graham’s studied composition. Fine as is Mr. Leader’s “Autumn Evening” (501), we do not hesitate to rank his “Through the Glen” (528) very far above it. A thoroughly appreciative love of nature is apparent in every part of this picture, and elevates the artist’s claims to a higher standard than we assign to a mere landscape-painter.

Mr. Cooke—to pass over a clever picture of “Dutch Boats” (479)—takes the position which is his—and, perhaps, his alone, now that the veteran Stanfield is no more—in his painting of Pevensey beach, with its “Strange Visitant” (512). Mr. O. P. Knight might dispute Mr. Cooke’s position were he more limited than he is in his range of subjects. Stanfield himself never placed on the canvas anything exceeding in truth the “Indian Coming up the Avon” (474). Compared with such a masterpiece, Mr. Dawson’s “Rodney” (472)—unfairly placed in too close a juxtaposition—falls short of excellence, but yet, judged on its own merits, has much to commend it.

Mr. Gill, who has hitherto contented himself with a very successful endeavour to render the troubled waters of a mountain torrent, has essayed the realisation of a stormy sea. His “Wreck of a Merchant-vessel” (467) will scarcely add to his fame. The painting of the sea is feeble and unequal. Mr. Vallance renders the stormy ocean with greater success in his “Billowness” (509)—but then he has evidently aimed at nothing more than a study of broken water and brown rock, and the result is merely a study, without interest or animation. We may close this summary of the marine subjects and of pictures pertaining to the class by a passing commendation of Mr. Nibbs’s unpretentious “On the Medway” (438).

Mr. Davis is an exceptional painter. He can give us cattle that Landseer might envy in landscapes with which Leader need not be ashamed to compete. In his “Moonrise” (536) he somewhat reminds us of former pictures in the grouping of the cows; in the completeness with which he conveys the effect at which he aims he is perfectly original and alone. To compare his realisation of animal life with Mr. Cooper’s studio compositions is to insult an artist who is far too clever to hope for election as an Associate of the Academy which can only admit with reluctance pictures that so fling the works of Academicians into the shade.

Last year a “Moonrise”—we believe that was the title of the picture—by Mr. Raven, attracted general attention. It is just possible that the public—forgetful, as a rule, of meritorious efforts in art—will overlook the same artist a “Snowdon” (548), a picture which is admirably painted, though it does not possess the “sensational” qualities which won for its predecessor the notice of the majority of visitors to Trafalgar-square.

Mr. Beavis, it is evident, owes his admission to the merits of his picture, and not to his knowledge of any member of the hanging committee. Badly placed as it is, his “Loading Sand” (538) cannot fail to command the attention which we begrudge to many pictures on the line, which demand it by right of position.

Mr. Hayllar’s “Midsummer Evening” (505) is a meritorious picture; but it is impossible to divest the mind of an idea that it owes its inspiration to Mr. Walker’s “Bathers”—of which more anon—a picture that has been the talk of the studios these two years.

“Stoneleigh Park” (517), by Mr. G. Sant, is scarcely on a par with his previous efforts. We do not say much for it when we assert that it is nearly equalled by the “Fontainebleau” (445) of Mr. Desangea, whose friends should, by force if need be, compel him to abandon portraiture for landscape.

Mr. Johnson’s “Preparing for Sea” (547) and Mr. Dakin’s “Pastures” (465) are above the average in their respective lines. Mr. Ansdell’s “Alhambra” (535) is like any number of similar works by the same artist; and the same may be said of Mr. Linnell’s “Sheep” (488). Mr. Mignot departs, and with great success, from his ordinary range of subject in “Tintern Abbey” (514). Portraits put in a strong appearance in this room. “My Model” (460), by Mr. Bridges, is a clever study. A family group, called “The Favourite Song” (434), by Mr. Barwell, is black and dirty in the shadows, and does not escape the condemnation of being a “family group.” Mr. Archer’s “In the Time of Charles the First” (468) might avoid the charge, and is really a charming group. Mr. Ballantyne’s “Phillip” (487) is interesting, if only on account of the subject. Mr. Sant’s “Harry” (485) is a delicious portrait; and Mr. Martin’s “Bonomi” (493) is full of character. Miss Solomon, with a picture given in the catalogue as “Giovannina Roma” (484), must class with the portrayers of very hideous originals; and Mr. Cooper should close a very long academical career with his picture of “The Painter and His Models” (522).

RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.—The Railway Companies Arrangements Bill of the Government has emerged from the Select Committee with not even its title left unaltered. It is, in fact, a new bill that is now before the House. Instead of casting upon inspectors appointed by the Board of Trade the duty of framing a scheme for the arrangement of the affairs of railway companies unable to meet their engagements, the bill now proposes that the directors may prepare a scheme of arrangement between the company and its creditors, file it in the Court of Chancery, and thereby stay executions, except with leave of the Court, to be obtained on summons or motion in a summary way; and if the scheme shall be assented to by three-fourths in value of every class of the creditors and shareholders affected, the directors may apply to the Court for confirmation of the scheme if the Court is satisfied that it is just and reasonable. But if this application to the Court is not made within three months after the filing of the scheme, or if the scheme is not confirmed, the company shall be deemed to be unable to pay its debts, and may be wound up under the Companies Act of 1862, and the railway may be sold. With regard to the remedies of creditors, the bill further provides that no judgment creditor on a debenture or contract made after next October shall enforce his judgment by an execution; but a judgment creditor, if left unpaid for two months, may institute a suit in Chancery and apply for the appointment of a receiver and manager, whose duty will be to distribute the traffic receipts as the Court shall direct; and if such receiver and manager shall be continued for twelve months, the company may be wound up by the Court under the Act of 1862 and the railway sold. In all these proceedings the Board of Trade is to have power to intervene if the public interests require such intervention. The bill provides that a railway company shall not be deemed to have borrowed money in excess of its debenture limit by reason of its having, shortly before the falling due of principal money, obtained an advance from bankers or otherwise to pay off such principal money. The Abandonment of Railways Act of 1860 (under which above 1500 miles of line were abandoned) is to be extended to all railways authorised by Acts passed before the present Session.



THE INTERNATIONAL THEATRE, PARIS EXHIBITION.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

The French people object to doing things by halves; and as they possess a wonderful power of adaptation—so that they can, as it were, reproduce all other nationalities cast in a French mould—Paris is at present a cosmopolis, without ceasing to be the capital of France. It only wanted time to develop the resources of this marvellous city and its capabilities; and now that the Exhibition may be said for the first time to be fairly open, it is certain to be a great success. Paris cannot fail, for it is a great exhibition in itself, and, without reference to the building in the Champ de Mars, it is an international exhibition. Its boulevards, always gay and picturesque, are now lively with strange and sparkling costumes; its cafés, and open spaces, and galleries are bright with life and colour; and its theatres and assembly-rooms resound with the murmurs of all tongues, and are filled with ethnological examples from the ends of the earth. Not only are the restaurateurs seeking after strange dishes and learning to conduct a table-d'hôte on international principles, but the purveyors of amusement are already prepared to astonish the browns, blacks, yellows, sallows, and all other complexions, including the pied and spotted varieties from African swamps and sweltering lagoons in South America. The International Theatre, in the park of the Exhibition, will, doubtless, lead the van of entertainments when it is once fairly set going; and, plain as the building is outside, it has very admirable resources within for a rapid change of performances. Of a more transient pattern is the Chinese Theatre, which is simply an Oriental edition of Richardson's show, with an open-air performance of acrobats and trapezists. We wait to see what will be the fate of the International, and how the "management" will vindicate its title; but meanwhile there is no lack of amusements more really startling than the appearance of Mr. Paul

Bedford in "Faust" or the translation of "Box and Cox" into the language of Grim Tartary. Paris itself—the Champs Elysées, the Bois de Boulogne, the Palais Royal—is the true international theatre, and nobody need be surprised to learn that arrangements have been made for a Spanish bull-fight at the Cirque, or that a tiger-hunt has been ordered in the jungles of Saint Cloud or Nogent-sur-Marne. There has already been a grand dromedary-race, and it was an undoubted success, the Algerian mehari beating by several necks, notwithstanding the anticipations of the proud Egyptians, whose house and stables we engraved in a recent number. This week we immortalise the winners of the Oriental Derby as they appeared after the conclusion of the contest, and a marvellously picturesque sight it was. The jury of the 75th class were the judges on the occasion, and the course was formed by that portion of the Bois de Boulogne which surrounds the site of the ancient deer park. The Algerian dromedary, mounted by Mahomed-ben-Ahmed, bore away the prize; but it must be confessed that the race was little more than a walk over, since the pampered Egyptian beast declined to go further than the middle of the course, where he lay down with true Oriental apathy, and, grunting "What must be, must!" resigned himself to contemplation. This example was followed, in the next race, by his companion, a member of the same family, with whom there had evidently been a previous arrangement. The winning mehari of the first race went ahead with tremendous strides, accomplishing the four kilometres (nearly three miles) in 18 min. 10 sec., but was eclipsed by the second, which, in the concluding race, did the same distance in 15 min. 9 sec.—not a bad pace for dromedaries, who are meant for long journeys across arid plains, and are not, therefore, to be put into competition with racehorses. The Algerian camel will travel

for from ten to fifteen hours, at the rate of about 2½ miles an hour, on two quarts of beans or barley or a few balls of flour; but the mehari is fleetier, and the Arabs declare (perhaps hyperbolically) that it will go farther in a day than one of their own horses in a week. At all events, messages which have to be sent speedily and for long distances are carried by a man on a dromedary; not only in the Sahara, but throughout the south. The mehari differs considerably from the ordinary camel, however: the hump is smaller and the form more slender and elegant; the ears are well shaped, the eye black and prominent; and the lips, long and firm, serve to conceal the huge teeth, which are so ugly in the coarser creature of the same species. The feet do not spread, like those of the camel; and the hair is sleek and fine. The young mehari is shorn in the spring, and is supposed to "become reasonable" (*hakeut*) when it is two years old. He is then broken and trained, a common saddle is placed on his back, and a ring in his nostril. The rider mounts, sitting cross-legged on his neck, guiding him by means of a rein to the ring in the nostril, the movement of which gives him no little pain. If the *heug*, or young mehari, can stop suddenly when going full tilt, or can describe a small circle round a spear stuck in the ground, his education is considered to be complete. However exaggerated the praises of the Arabs may appear, it is certain that these dromedaries seem almost incapable of fatigue. They will go at a swinging trot the whole day, are much more gentle and tractable than the camel, and have the additional qualification of never betraying an ambuscade. The spectacle of a race of these creatures was of course singular enough; but there is no telling to what one may grow accustomed by a residence in Paris during the next three months. Every assembly is becoming a surprise, and the most ordinary gathering of people in the streets and shops is a novelty when one first



THE TEST-HOUSE—"COTTAGE ANGLAIS"—PARIS EXHIBITION.

arrives there. Before another month has passed the boulevards will be, as it were, en fête for a fancy dress ball, and the costumes which surprised and delighted us in our youth in the illustrated editions of geography books will be here "all alive." We have already published some engravings of these piquant dresses as displayed in the Exhibition to illustrate the habits of some of the peoples of the earth, but these lay-figures will ere long be superseded by real flesh and blood, and their wooden noses be metaphorically put out of joint by the arrival of their prototypes. Then will Sing-Sing-Fow, from Canton, sneer celestially at her own counterfeit presentation, and Kha-Foo-Za-Lum, of Jeddah, sit statue-like regarding with stolid wonder the barbarous attire of the demi-monde as it rustles in the court of the Tycoon of Japan. The coquettish lace caps of the Pays Bas; the flashing gold and silver plates with which Dutch matrons conceal their golden hair; Greek caps, Russian tiaras all be-jewelled and sewn with pearls; natty Polish boots and kepis; great peaks and towers of lace and muslin; coquettish hats from the Austrian Tyrol, from Alsacia, and, for aught we know, from remote villages of North Wales; Highland bonnets, Moorish *haiks* and turbans; negro cotton-print bedgowns, Turkish trousers and loose jackets (like revived Bloomer costumes), fresh Swiss dresses, and mountain hats wreathed with Alpine flowers and heaths, stately Spanish robes and black mantillas, and the wondrous head-gear of Bohemian and Magyar beauties, taking all shapes, from a muffin cap to an elegant adaptation of the nightcap of Dr. Dee; all these will be visible during a walk upon the hot, soft, asphalt footways of the Boulevard. At present we can only indicate all this by a sketch of the nationalities as represented by the "types of costume" now to be seen in the courts of the Exhibition building; but "they are coming" by road and rail and river, in carts and vans and shatteradans, in palanquins and jaunting cars and britzakas, in junks and screw-steamer and yachts, and, for aught anybody can tell, even in balloons; for the science of aeronautics is making rapid progress.



THE LATE CLARKSON STANFIELD, ESQ., R.A.

in Paris, and "the right to fly" is assuming a very grave importance. At any rate, he who goes to Paris will have seen the world, supposing, that is, that he does not defer his visit too long; for then all things will have become new—the nationalities will be French polished and the distinguishing costumes be obliterated by *Le Follet* and the *Modes Parisiennes*.

In the Exhibition park, and near to the barrack-buildings in which specimens of the equipage of the British Army are displayed, is a remarkable building, which is represented in our Engraving. No wonder the French persist in calling it "Le Cottage Anglais," for it reminds one of Miss Burdett Coutts's model dwellings near Highgate Cemetery—that is to say, it is a two-gabled Gothic building, with framed timbers in the old English style, and presents such a quaint, picturesque appearance that it might well have passed as an example of that peculiar style of architecture. It is in reality the "testing-house," and is, with admirable ingenuity, made to serve the purposes of exhibiting the products of half a dozen slate-quarries and a dozen brick and tile manufactory, besides various modes of wall decoration, and specimens of all sorts of stoves, grates, and cooking-apparatus. Amongst the ranges is an enormous circular affair exhibited by Mr. Benham, of London; and there is also a compact cooking-apparatus by Adams and Son. In one part of the "cottage" Mr. Glover exhibits his British standard gas-meter, a most delicately constructed and costly instrument, which gives its name to the building. The French juries were at first not disposed to recognise this apparatus; but it will now be employed in testing the qualities of the gas in the lighting and heating experiments. A self-registering photometer gives a figure representing the length and power of the flame impressed on a dry collodion plate for a period of twenty-four hours consecutively; in other words, takes a continuous photograph of the appearance of any flame presented to it. This testing-apparatus and various other most interesting objects are comprised in the building which has retained the name first given to it by the French workmen of "Le Cottage Anglais."



PARIS EXHIBITION: WINNERS OF THE DROMEDARY-RACES BETWEEN ALGERIA AND EGYPT.

THE LATE CLARKSON STANFIELD, R.A.

On Monday morning, in the presence of a large circle of friends, the remains of Mr. Clarkson Stanfield, R.A., whose death was announced in our last Number, were consigned to the grave, according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church, of which communion he was a member. The funeral procession moved from the residence of the deceased, No. 6, Belsize Park-road, to the Catholic chapel of St. Mary, Holly-place, Hampstead. After an impressive requiem mass the cortège left the chapel. The coffin was of polished oak, with a massive Latin cross running the entire length of the lid, and covered with a violet velvet pall, surmounted by a wreath of flowers. The inscription, on a brass plate at the base of the cross, was as follows:—"Clarkson Stanfield, R.A., obit May 18, 1867, aet. 73. Requiescat in pace." There were seven mourning coaches occupied by members of deceased's family and others. Among those present were Sir Francis Grant, President of the Royal Academy; Messrs. J. P. Knight, R.A.; S. A. Hart, R.A.; Charles Makens; F. Goodall, R.A.; E. W. Cooke, R.A.; J. R. Herbert, R.A.; E. Duncan, J. E. Doyle, &c. A large number of private carriages followed, including those of nearly all the leading members of the Royal Academy. The funeral procession moved slowly to St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal-green. A large number of persons assembled on the ground. Here, with a simple but effective service, the remains of the late distinguished Academician were deposited in a grave prepared for the occasion.

The following tribute to the memory of Mr. Stanfield appears in this week's *Punch*:

CLARKSON STANFIELD.

BORN: 1793. DIED: MAY 18, 1867.

Though Art with us know not such honour's meed
As from the Senate and the Sovereign flows
Freely for statesman's work, or soldier's deed,
To cheer a great life's evening of repose;
Although untitled name and unstarred breast
Be his, whose sceptre is the muse's palm,
Who twines the olive and the laurel crest
About his forehead, consecrate and calm;

He ranks as noble in Fame's Book of Gold;
On brow, not breast, Renown's great star he wears;
The rolls that his undying title hold,
Outline the rolls of Paladins and Peers.
Fair-blazoned on that golden page is writ
His name, whose loss makes many sad to-day:
O'er that cold bough the deathless star is lit
Which burns above great artists passed away.

England, the Sea-Queen, with a heavy hand
Lays a green wreath on her sea-painter's bier,
Where Clarkson Stanfield's plain name shows more grand,
For absence of all titles written near.
What title could make that great name more great?
What honour, e'en from honour's fount, could flow
To him, who with the immortals holds his state,
Whose laurels, as he sleeps, will grow and grow?

He lived a life of happy honoured toil,
Toil in the art he loved, and lived for still:
Not his, like some, a life his labour's foil—
His work and conduct owned the self-same will;
Pure, simple, faithful, spent in service true
Of God, and of the talent God had given;
And never earthly life seemed, through and through,
More ripened, here, to bear its fruit in Heaven.

Say not, the pictures that he gave the stage—
Pictures born in a day to live a night—
Emperors of Art, that knew not age,
But died almost ere we could say, "how bright!"
Say not such pictures were a waste of power,
Their value lost, their beauty flung away:
Who knows what seeds they sowed in their brief hour
Of love and knowledge for an after day?

How many eyes in art's deep lore unlearn'd,
Through the great theatre, first learnt to see
In his fair scenes the beauty they had spurned,
The grace of God's world and man's masonry.
How much refinement his refinement spread,
How much invention quickened at his fire;
How much new sense from his fine sense was bred,
What spirits used his wings first to aspire?

Till when he left the theatre, behold,
That was an art which he had found a trade:
For rough-daubed blots great pictures were unrolled,
Untutored taste was taught, and tutored fed.
And then to more enduring work he turned:
Painted the strength of storm, the hush of calm,
Italian suns upon his canvas burned,
Cool Northern skies shed their grey peace like balm.

White-winged feluccas, on Calabrian seas,
Dipped to the blue, like sea-birds at their play,
Or a dismasted hull, before the breeze,
Surged the abandoned, on her helmsless way:
To our charm'd eyes Venetian raised her face
Of smiles and sunshine from the still lagune,
Or Alpine needles reared their snow-clad grace,
In the thin air, under the crescent moon:

Or some great battle's glory at his hand
Took form and life: Trafalgar saw again
Upon the bloody deck our Nelson stand,
Or heard the mourning for him drown the main.
So lived he, to record the grace of earth,
The awe of sea, our ships, our lights, our fame;
Simple, serene—high life from lowly birth—
He lived for Art, and leaves a deathless name!

THE formal inauguration of Mr. Noble's statue of the late Mr. Cobden in Peel Park is fixed to take place on June 7. The chairman of the memorial committee (Alderman Wright Turner) had an interview, in London, on Thursday with the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., who has consented to take the principal part in the ceremonial.

HUNGARIAN GIPSIES.—A wandering band of Hungarians arrived a few days back at Vernon and set up their tents on the banks of the Seine. This little tribe consists of four families, forming a total of thirty persons, the majority being children. They are all dressed in ragged clothes, and go barefooted, their costume and strongly-marked physiognomy giving them a strangely wild appearance. But, notwithstanding their miserable exterior, they have a healthy look, and bear that air of carelessness which arises from a feeling of independence. These gipsies, who are provided with passports in regular order, are tinkers by profession. The men and women, and even the elder children, smoke long pipes, which rarely quit their mouths. Two of the men, who appear to be the chiefs of the band, wear, no doubt as insignia of their rank, two rows of large metal buttons on the breast, and are armed with sticks ornamented with a knob of brilliant metal, and resembling a staff borne by drum-majors in infantry regiments. Around the tents may be seen about a dozen rough-looking horses, seeking the scanty herbage on the banks of the river. This tribe, which has left the south of Hungary for a tour in Europe, repairing, as it goes along, the kitchen utensils of the inhabitants, in a measure revives the recollection of the traditions and customs of the Middle Ages.

A NEW LION-KILLER.—The journals of Algeria speak of a young Frenchman named Bétoüille, employed in the topographical service, who bids fair to rival the fame of Jules Gérard. Being lately in the neighbourhood of Soukahras, he was informed that a lion had carried off an ox on the preceding night. In consequence, he prepared his arms and took up a position, in the dusk, behind a thicket, at about 15 yards from the remains of the ox. At about two in the morning the lion appeared and recommenced its repast, when the sportsman took the opportunity to discharge two spherical balls into its body. The animal fell without a sound, but immediately rose, and staggering along for some little distance, again dropped down, dead. It measured nearly 9 ft., and was supposed to be about twelve years old. A few days later M. Bétoüille went on another expedition to the same locality, having learnt that a lioness and two lions were committing great ravages every night. Having entered the forest which the animals frequented, he fastened an old mare to a tree as a bait, and then posted himself behind some thick bushes. He had not been there long before a noise was heard in the thicket, and a magnificent lion made its appearance, advancing with precaution, and passing within a few yards of the marksman, who was unable to take aim at the moment from his rifle being entangled in the brushwood. The animal then made a circuit round the mare, licked its lips, and crocheted down for the purpose of taking the fatal spring, when the sportsman, from about forty yards' distance, fired and lodged two balls in its right side. The animal gave a terrific roar, and, plunging into the forest, disappeared. The next day its dead body was found at about 500 yards from the place of ambuscade. It was a noble animal, but not so large as the one previously killed.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

In consequence of the continued indisposition of Madlle. Adelina Patti, "Don Giovanni," which was to have been produced last week (on Friday), was again postponed, and "Un Ballo in Maschera" substituted for it. The distribution of parts was precisely the same as in previous representations of this work, the principal characters being assigned to Madlle. Fricci, Madlle. Nan, Signor Mario, and Signor Graziani. Signor Mario is rarely seen and never heard (when in full possession of his powers) to more advantage than in the part of the Duke of Naples. His singing and acting on this occasion were perfect; and it was difficult to know whether most to admire the graceful nonchalance alike of his demeanour and of his vocal delivery in the scene where, disguised as a sailor, the Duke consults the sorceress Ulrica, or the passionate earnestness with which he gave the expressive phrases of the love duet with Amelia in the following act. It is now announced that "Don Carlos" will be produced on the 4th.

"Norma" has seldom been played with a better cast than that with which it is now represented at Her Majesty's Theatre. Norma is, in many respects, the best of Madlle. Titien's Italian parts. In the highly dramatic trio which closes the first act, and in the pathetic duet, or series of duets, of the second, she is equally admirable. This, in short, is a character in which a great singer who is not also a great actress has no chance of making an impression upon the public; and it is one in which Madlle. Titien has not failed to distinguish herself whenever she has undertaken it. Madlle. Sinico sings the simple sentimental music of Adalgisa very charmingly, and acts with intelligence and grace in the few dramatic scenes in which she has to appear. Signor Mongini sings Pollio's commonplace solos of the first act with all possible expression, and gives an almost tragic earnestness to Pollio's demeanour in the final scene. Nor is the striking dramatic figure of Oroveso neglected. Placed in the hands of Signor Rokitański, it is presented with all due impressiveness. It is at last definitely announced that Madlle. Christine Nilsson, late of the Théâtre Lyrique, now of the French Académie, will shortly make her first appearance at Her Majesty's Theatre.

The fifth concert of the Philharmonic Society was in many respects the most interesting that has taken place this season. The two movements from Schubert's unfinished symphony in B minor; Beethoven's pastoral symphony, the best known and most universally admired, if not the finest, of the immortal nine; one of Mendelssohn's concertos for the pianoforte; a concerto by Molique, for the violoncello; and Cherubini's overture to "Anacreon" were the instrumental pieces included in the programme. In Herr Molique's concerto, written for Signor Patti, Herr Grützmacher, a new violoncellist, was heard. Herr Grützmacher has a magnificent tone, and manipulates his instrument with all possible dexterity. His performance was very effective, and was loudly applauded. Herr Jael, too, was highly successful in Mendelssohn's concerto, which he played with all the power and brilliancy by which his execution is known to be generally characterized. The vocalists were Madlle. Demerici-Lablaque, who was heard in "Vedrai carino;" Madlle. Sinico, who sang the polacca from "Der Freischütz," and joined Madlle. Demerici-Lablaque in the duet from "La Gazza Ladra;" and Mr. Hohler, who gave the air from "Lombardi," "La mia letizia," with abundance of expression. This melody suits Mr. Hohler's voice perfectly, and he sings it *con amore*.

At the third of Mr. John Boosey's ballad concerts a number of old and new songs of English origin were performed. Some of the best ballads in the whole range of English music were included in the entertainment, and full justice was done to them by Miss Banks, Miss Louisa Pyne, Miss Dolby, and others. Many of the ballads were evidently applauded as much for the words as for the music. "The Vicar of Bray," for instance, in spite of its seven verses (sung by Mr. Wynne), was received with great demonstrations of delight. Miss Edith Wynne sang very charmingly Bishop's "Bid me discourse." Miss Banks gave, in her usual unaffected style, "The Oak and the Ash," which is a ballad and nothing else. Madlle. Lemmens-Sherrington sang the "Willow Song," Miss Louisa Pyne "Oh dear! what can the matter be?" and Miss Dolby arias by Clariel. Miss Madeline Schiller played fantasia on English airs (Mr. Benedict's "Albion") in the first part of the concert, and a fantasia on Irish airs (Moscheles's "Recollections of Ireland") in the second. Among the concerted pieces, several by Mr. J. L. Hatton, who conducted, were performed with remarkable success. Mr. Boosey announces a fourth ballad concert, at which it has been suggested that the ballad music of all nations should be represented.

The series of concerts given annually by Mr. Henry Leale's Choir are at an end for the present season. The last, for the benefit of the director, was an excellent specimen of its class. Ancient music was represented by Arcadelt's "Ave Maria," and by various madrigals, the composition of Marenzio, Morley, and Wilbye. Of the modern works performed the most remarkable were two of Mendelssohn's, "Hear my prayer," and the eight-part psalm, "Judge me, O Lord!"

Herr Paner's annual concert took place on Friday morning, last week, at the Hanover-square Rooms, in the presence of a crowded and fashionable audience. The programme included Mendelssohn's second pianoforte trio, admirably played by Herr Pauer (piano), Strauss (violin), and Grützmacher (violoncello). Two new compositions of the beneficiaire—"Nocturne" and a "Rondo Grazioso"—were gracefully rendered by him; and his sonata for the piano and violin, played by himself and Herr Strauss, was warmly received. But the most interesting novelty was Herr Pauer's "transcription" of the chaconne in D minor from Bach's fourth violin solo (with Mendelssohn's accompaniment) into a solo for a single performer on the pianoforte. Several vocal and instrumental pieces were also sung and played by Madlle. Ennequin, Madlle. Bramer, Herr Strauss, Herr Grützmacher, and other performers.

A TESTIMONIAL LETTER, signed by 113 jurors and associate jurors of the Paris Exhibition of 1867, has been sent to Mr. Henry Cole, C.B., expressive of their high appreciation of the able and important services Mr. Cole has rendered in the arrangement and administration of the British department.

IMPORTANT FISHERY DECISION.—On Saturday last the Salmon Fishery Commission, sitting at Carlisle, pronounced judgment in respect of a large number of claims to use poke-nets, stream-nets, and other fixed engines in the Solway. The Commissioners declared all such engines to be illegal. The decision is of a most sweeping nature, inasmuch as it deprives whole villages of the means by which their inhabitants have for generations earned a livelihood; and, in consideration of the fact, the Commissioners deferred the execution of their orders for removal till the present season shall have closed. The shore of the Solway for miles is covered with these engines.

ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE FOR INFANTS.—The annual meeting of the friends of this charity was held, last week, at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill—Mr. Frederick Barlow, the treasurer, in the chair. The report, which was read by the secretary, Mr. Joseph Soul, stated that a site of about three acres and a half at Horsey-rise had been purchased at a cost of £3367 17s. 3d., including all charges. Of this sum £2300 had been reserved from the general account of the first year, leaving £1000 to be provided. A friend of the charity had offered a donation of £1000 towards the building, provided the same amount be collected to make up the deficiency for land. Thereupon one of the earliest friends of the institution, who contributed as W. B., offered £100, if nine other persons would subscribe like amounts, but up to the present time the only response to that challenge had been two promises of £50 each. As it was necessary that the land should be paid for in April, the sum of £437 had been taken out of the ordinary fund of the year, and the remaining sum of £567 17s. 3d. was due to the treasurer, who had advanced it on behalf of the charity. With regard to the funds, the committee remarked that the greatest regard to economy had been manifested in the management of the infant family. The accounts showed annual subscriptions to the amount of £564 12s.; life donations, £429 5s. 6d.; other donations, £816 3s. 9d.; collection after sermon, £14 14s.; and dividend and interest, £104 17s. 6d.; making together £1939 12s. 8d. The total receipts, including the above, and contribution for cottage, home, and land, the sale of £2100 Three per Cent Reduced, and deposit at banker's amounted to £5313 16s. 4d., against which there was an expenditure of £5241 10s. 3d., leaving a balance of £72 6s. 1d. at banker's. The liabilities were £567 17s. 3d. due to the treasurer, and £101 3s. 4d. to sundry accounts. The report was adopted, and resolutions in furtherance of the objects of the institution having been adopted, the election of twelve infants into the charity was proceeded with.

VISITATION CHARGE OF THE ARCHDEACON OF MIDDLESEX.

On Monday the Venerable John Sinclair, M.A., Archdeacon of Middlesex, held a visitation of that part of the diocese of London which is within his jurisdiction at the parish church of St. Paul, Covent-garden. After the close of the ordinary business prayers were said (a very large number of the clergy being present), and the Archdeacon proceeded to the delivery of his charge. He said:

The temporal throne of the Roman Pontiff had for some years past been in tottering condition. With regard to the lofty spiritual pretensions of the Papacy the case was different. These were put forth in their most exaggerated form, with an overbearing confidence calculated to astound and overawe the weak-minded. The efforts of the Propaganda had for some years past been specially directed to this country. Money was nowhere wanting for Papal objects—chapels, colleges, schools, and monastic institutions of all kinds were rising up in every quarter of the kingdom. Even members of their own body had allowed themselves to be perverted, and already the Papal hierarchy was triumphantly anticipating the subjection of this country to the apostolic see, and the exertion of its world-wide influence for the dissemination of Roman doctrine. Without enlarging on the various schemes of pacification and reunion with Rome, in which they were exhorted to accept all, or nearly all, the errors that Rome had ever propounded, he might assume that there never was a time when it was more necessary, not only for the clergy but for the people, to keep in mind what Popery was in respect of doctrine, worship, and morals. With regard to morals, he had long been of opinion that the principles inculcated by Popish teachers in writings widely circulated and continually quoted as of the highest authority in that Church were not sufficiently held up to reprobation in our Church, and that they thus put aside a formidable weapon, offensive and defensive, which the God of truth and purity had put into their hands, and of which for the security of their people it was their duty to avail themselves. He then proceeded to illustrate the morals of the Church of Rome by extracts from the writings of grave and learned casuists of that communion. It was a melancholy fact that, hateful as were the maxims of Roman casuists on this subject, the questions which it was the duty of confessors to ask were still more atrocious. No wonder that such men as St. Thomas Aquinas, John Gerson, and St. Carlo Borromeo should acknowledge the repugnance with which a confessor, still retaining some sense of decency, must give utterance to interrogatories suggestive of so much evil. St. Alphonse de Ligouri, on the authority of Francolini, actually justified the painting of obscenities, on the ground that they were not more offensive to decency than the questions which confessors were bound to put to young persons:—*Pueri et pueris hujus modi fiduciam prorsus ignarus et utiliter ignorari.* The first inference he would draw was, that since those were not the morals of the Bible, the Church of Rome was a corrupt communion, and its pretensions utterly unscriptural and untenable. It was not without indignation as well as pity that they contemplated any individual who had been trained up among them from his youth, and had learned Christian ethics from St. Paul, from St. Peter, and above all, from the Saviour of men, resolving deliberately to join the Church of the Casuists, and close the Word of God for ever, in order to put his conscience in the keeping of some confessor. It must be the constant care of the clergy to warn their people against similar delusions, against any doctrine, from whatever quarter, which would make Christ the minister of sin. The most vehement, the most ostentatious Protestant profession was by no means an infallible security against the Antinomian tendencies of our fallen nature. Christ was our mediator with God to obtain our justification. No act or merit on our part could have any share whatever in that great work of propitiation. But, on the other hand, Christ was God's mediator with them to re-establish the divine authority in their hearts. This was the trust imposed on Him by the Father, and he would not betray it. He would not allow the casuistry of Popery or of Protestantism to set aside the Decalogue. When, therefore, they were preaching the efficacy of faith, they were bound to show that the only faith to be relied upon was a faith that, united by love, purified the heart and kept the commandments of God. Or, again, when they were enlarging on the privileges of baptism, they must make it clear that unless baptism led to holiness, unless the promise of obedience led to actual obedience, the ceremony was nugatory and worse than nugatory. When, moreover, they were administering the holy communion to a dying person who received it for the first time, they must give him fully to understand that this ordinance was no *viaticum*, no substitute for extreme unction, no passport to Heaven, and that it implied qualifications in the receiver without which it was worse than useless. And, lastly, when they were discussing from the pulpit or in the sick-chamber the efficacy of a deathbed repentance, let there be no mistake. Let them be sure to show, with all possible emphasis and clearness, that repentance, to be effectual, implied a change of heart; that without this change of heart no degree of fear, no extremity of sorrow, no assumption of confidence, no transport of joy would avail.

OBITUARY.

SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON.—Sir Archibald Alison is dead, having expired on Friday night week. His condition for some days previously precluded all hope of recovery. The deceased Baronet was born at the parsonage house of Kenley, in Shropshire, in 1792, his father being a clergyman and author of "Essays on Taste." The deceased studied at the University of Edinburgh, under Professors Dugald Stewart, Playfair, and Leslie, and other celebrated men of the day; and he carried off the highest prizes in mathematics and Greek. He became a member of the Scotch Bar in 1814, and in the succeeding eight years travelled much on the Continent. In 1824 he was appointed Sheriff of the county of Lanark, one of the highest judicial offices in Scotland. Shortly before this he published two works, which became standard ones on Scotch law—one being "The Principles of the Criminal Law," and the other "The Practice of the Criminal Law." At that period he was already engaged in preparing his "History of Modern Europe from the Commencement of the French Revolution to the Battle of Waterloo"—a work which is exceedingly voluminous and full of details that could not have been collected without remarkable industry; but which is marred by an excess of comment and reflection often causing weariness to the reader, so that the abridgement is now generally preferred to the formidable whole. In 1845 the deceased was elected Lord Rector of Marischal College, Aberdeen; in 1851 he was chosen to fill the same position in the University of Glasgow. In 1852 the Earl of Derby, being at the head of the Government, conferred upon him a baronetcy, and in the following year the University of Oxford awarded to the deceased Baronet, then in the zenith of his fame as an historian, the degree of D.C.L. The great effort of the deceased's life, his history of Europe from the first French Revolution, has been continued up to a later period, the design of the author being to extend it up to the accession of Napoleon III. to the throne. A portion of this supplementary history was long since presented to the public. The literary labours of the deceased included "The Life of the Duke of Marlborough" and the "Principles of Population;" and he also found time to devote himself to a biography of Lord Castlereagh; and he published extensively on the vexed currency question, in which he deemed himself an authority. In politics the deceased was throughout life a Tory of the old school, being apparently quite unaffected by the fact that he was almost always the representative of a losing cause. His predictions and prejudices are constantly exhibited in his "History of Europe." As an author he was wanting in force and impression and in that artistic use of materials which is necessary to command the attention of the mass of readers. In industry, however, and in the painstaking investigation of facts, he has had few equals. He succeeded in the title by his son, Colonel Alison, commander of the 72nd Highlanders, who served with distinction, under Lord Clyde, during the Indian mutiny.

MR. R. H. BAILY, R.A.—We regret to record the death, on Wednesday week, of Mr. Baily, the eminent sculptor. The deceased was in his eightieth year. He was a native of Bristol, the son of a ship carver, and very early gave indications of ability in the profession in which he was soon highly regarded. He became a pupil of Flaxman, and his progress to fame was rapid. His best works, perhaps, are "Eve Listening to the Voice," a companion to his "Eve at the Fountain;" "The Graces," "The Fatigued Huntsman," "The Sleeping Nymph," and a colossal statue of Sir Robert Peel for Manchester. Among his other works are—"Hercules Casting Lyons into the Sea," "Apollo Discharging his Arrows," and "Maternal Love," as well as statues of Lord Egremont, Sir Astley Cooper; Earl Grey, at Newcastle; the Duke of Sussex, for Freemasons' Hall; and a monument to Lord Holland, in Westminster Abbey, with many others. The statue of Nelson, which surmounts the lofty column in Trafalgar-square is also one of his works. Mr. Baily was elected an A.R.A. in 1817, and a R.A. in 1821.—*Express.*

THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER.—The consecration of the Bishop-elect of Rochester (the Rev. Dr. Claughton) will be celebrated on Tuesday, June 11, in Rochester Cathedral. In connection with the Rochester Church Endowment Fund, raised through the energy of the late Bishop (Dr. Wigmore), it may be observed that the donations and subscriptions paid and promised, with the interest received from investments, bring up the sum to be distributed to the £15,000 proposed. Out of this amount £2000 has been set apart for parsonage-houses, and has been voted to fourteen parishes, that sum drawing out local contributions and other grants and benefactions to the amount of £16,000. Grants have been made for district endowments—i.e., for the increase of the annual value of livings to sixteen other parishes, and to the amount of £2400; and it is hoped that this sum will bring out from local sources and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners more than £13,000. A "house of mercy" for fallen women is about to be opened at Great Maplestead, Essex, the building having been proceeded with at a cost of nearly £10,000 by a benevolent lady who has also endowed the establishment with a sum of £250 per annum for a chaplain's salary. It is the intention of the new Bishop of Rochester to reside at Danbury Palace, all rumours to the contrary notwithstanding.

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